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REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES*

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with recommendation 37 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, 1/ as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, a high-level meeting of all States participating in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was convened at Geneva from 26 May to 2 June 1980 to carry out an overall, intergovernmental review of technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) within the United Nations development system. The report of the first session of the intergovernmental body 2/ was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. In its resolution 35/202 of 16 December 1980, the General Assembly decided, inter alia, to change the name of the high-level meeting to High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and requested the Administrator of UNDP to convene the next session of the Committee under the same organizational and procedural arrangements as had been made for the high-level meeting.

2. The second session of the High-level Committee met in New York from 1 to 8 June 1981 and its report 3/ was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session. In accordance with the agreement reached at the Committee's second session and endorsed by the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, the structure of the third session of the High-level Committee consisted of the Committee in plenary meeting and only one working group, and this practice has been followed in subsequent sessions.

3. The third session of the High-level Committee met in New York from 31 May to 6 June 1983 and its report 4/ was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

4. The fourth session was held in New York from 28 May to 3 June 1985. Its report 5/ was considered by the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

5. The fifth session was held in New York from 18 to 22 May 1987 and its report 6/ was adopted on 27 May 1987. The General Assembly considered that report at its forty-second session.

6. The sixth session was held in New York from 18 to 22 September 1989 and its report 7/ adopted on 29 September 1989. The General Assembly reviewed that report at its forty-fourth session.

II. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Date and place of the session

7. The seventh session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries was held in New York from 28 to 31 May 1991. The High-level Committee held a further meeting on 6 June 1991 to consider the adoption of its report.

8. In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 35/202, the session was convened by the Administrator of UNDP under the usual procedural arrangements.

B. Attendance

9. The following eighty States Members of the United Nations participating in UNDP were represented at the session:

Albania
Algeria
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Australia
Bahamas
Bahrain
Barbados
Benin
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
Canada
Cape Verde
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Czechoslovakia
Denmark
Ecuador
Egypt
Finland
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guinea-Bissau
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Kenya
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Malaysia
Mali
Mexico
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Norway
Pakistan
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Rwanda
Saint Lucia
Saudi Arabia
Sierra Leone
Spain
Suriname
Swaziland
Sweden
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
United Arab Emirates
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yugoslavia
Zaire
Zambia

10. In addition, representatives of the Observer Missions of the Republic of Korea and Switzerland to the United Nations, which are also participating in the work of UNDP, took part in the discussions of the Committee.

11. Members of the following offices and departments of the United Nations Secretariat participated in the proceedings of the session:

Department of Technical Cooperation for Development

Office of the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

United Nations Population Fund

Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator

12. The following regional commissions were represented:

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

13. The following United Nations bodies were also represented:

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

United Nations Volunteers programme

World Food Council

World Food Programme

United Nations Centre For Human Rights

14. Representatives of the following specialized agencies and related organizations attended the sessions:

International Labour Organisation

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

World Health Organization

International Maritime Organization

World Bank

International Monetary Fund

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

World Intellectual Property Organization

World Metereological Organization

15. The following intergovernmental organizations, which have received a standing invitation to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly, were represented at the session:

African Development Bank

Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee

Latin American Economic System

Organization of American States

16. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended the session as observers:

Asian Clearing Union

Asian Non-Governmental Organizations Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

Banco Centroamericano de Integración Económica

Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

International Association of Juvenile and Family Court Magistrates

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage

International Council on Archives

International Council on Social Welfare

International Organization for Migration

Third World Academy of Sciences

17. As proposed by the Administrator of UNDP in his report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session (A/34/415, para. 7), and as approved by the Assembly in its resolution 34/117 of 14 December 1979, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were invited. The following were represented at the session:

Airport Association Council International

All India Women's Conference

Arab Women's Solidarity Association

Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Croxton Collaborative

International Chamber of Commerce

International Cooperative Alliance

League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Pan African Islamic Society for Agro-cultural Development

Paul Segal Associates Architects

Seventh-Day Adventists

Women's World Banking

World Association of Former United Nations Interns and Fellows, Inc.

World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession

World Peace Council

C. Opening of the session and election of the President

(Agenda items 1 and 2)

18. The seventh session of the High-level Committee was opened by Mr. Mohammad A. Abulhasan, Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations and President of the sixth session of the High-level Committee.

19. Mr. Eduard Kukan, Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations, was elected President of the High-level Committee by acclamation.

20. In his opening statement, the President noted that many changes were currently taking place in the world, the pace of which had accelerated during the past biennium. Particularly noteworthy were the progress achieved in the area of human rights and the movement towards market-oriented economies in Eastern Europe as well as in other parts of the world. Those trends needed to be supported through expanded international cooperation.

21. Technical cooperation among developing countries remained a key element in global economic cooperation. Its purpose was not to displace North-South Cooperation with South-South Cooperation but to complement the former within a cooperative framework that was truly universal. That was the challenge facing the international community. Cooperation in the areas of trade and investment were a particularly high priority for the future. The President noted that his own country, Czechoslavakia, had a long-standing tradition of cooperation with other countries, including multilateral cooperation

arrangements within the United Nations system, and it intended to continue that tradition.

22. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action remained valid and continued to be the main legislative framework for TCDC. The President noted that the General Assembly had reaffirmed the importance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action as recently as December 1989 (General Assembly resolution 44/223).

23. Despite some obstacles, TCDC continued to make progress, although not to the desired extent. The task of the High-level Committee was to identify the constraints that continued to exist and to suggest ways in which they could be diminished so that future progress could be accelerated.

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 4)

24. The High-level Committee adopted the agenda (TCDC/7/L.1) and the organization of work (TCDC/7/L.2). It was agreed that agenda items 5 and 6 would be the subject of the general debate in plenary meeting. The Working Group, which began its work on 28 May, was assigned agenda items 5 and 6. For a list of documents considered by the Committee at its seventh session, see annex II.

E. Election of officers other than the President

(Agenda item 3)

25. The following officers were elected by acclamation:

Vice-President: Mr. Ahmed Amaziane (Morocco)

Ms. Guadalupe Hung Pacheco (Honduras)

Rapporteur: Ms. Tehmina Janjua (Pakistan)

26. The Committee approved the President's recommendation that Mr. Amaziane should act as Chairman of the Working Group. It was subsequently agreed that the Chairman should also serve as Rapporteur of the Working Group.

III. REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION

(Agenda items 5 and 6)

A. Statement by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation

27. In his statement, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation recalled a number of points made by him at the sixth session. He pointed out that TCDC as a modality for the promotion of collective development had not been fully put to use. Even 35 years after the historic Bandung Conference, developing countries had still not succeeded in integrating TCDC into the activities of their government organizations. As a modality essential to the development process, TCDC should be strongly supported by bilateral partners, in particular with the necessary financial support. The United Nations system, thanks to its unique network of field offices and organizations covering all sectors, must mobilize the capacities and experiences that had a bearing on TCDC within the context of overall development activities. The proper development of TCDC within the United Nations system was dependent on a transformation of attitudes and the development of effective policies and procedures as well as the establishment of mechanisms for continuing assessment of the capacities of developing countries, wide diffusion of that information, and the adoption by developing countries of measures required to take advantage of that information. He added that two years later those observations were still relevant, despite the progress, limited but real, that had been made.

28. Within the United Nations system, TCDC had continued to grow. UNDP, which had the lead responsibility for TCDC within the system, had taken a number of concrete and positive steps to strengthen the movement. The Governing Council had included TCDC among the six areas to be given priority during the next programming cycle. The Special Programme Resources allocation for TCDC had been increased substantially and the Administrator was currently considering other measures to integrate TCDC in UNDP activities. In that connection, the Director-General noted with satisfaction that the Administrator did not appear inclined to support the recommendation introduced by Kienbaum and Partners in their study of the senior management structure of UNDP that the Special Unit be merged into the Bureau for Programme Policy and Evaluation and in due course be abolished. The importance and complexity of TCDC and the central role played by the Special Unit argued strongly in favour of the Administrator's position on that matter.

29. Other organizations of the United Nations system had accorded higher priority to TCDC than in the past. That was particularly true of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which had made increasing use of TCDC modalities in their development activities.

30. The South Commission, under the chairmanship of President Julius K. Nyerere of the United Republic of Tanzania, had produced an excellent report entitled The Challenge to the South, 8/ which laid the basis for injecting new life into TCDC. The report emphasized the urgent need for countries of the South to organize themselves effectively for South-South

cooperation in a wide range of development activities based on the complementarity of resources and growing collective self-reliance.

31. In concluding his statement, the Director-General noted that, in his report of 29 January 1989 reviewing operational development activities, he had examined at length the question of TCDC. An important point in the review was that TCDC could not bear full fruit unless developing countries intensified and expanded economic cooperation among themselves, a minimum requirement for which was the establishment of national focal points, where they did not exist, supported by the necessary resources.

32. One of the major obstacles to the expansion of TCDC continued to be insufficient financial resources. While the Governing Council of UNDP had authorized countries to use up to $7.5 million or 10 per cent of their indicative planning figures (whichever was smaller) for TCDC activities to benefit other countries, none had reached that level thus far. If a substantial portion of UNDP regional and interregional resources were made available for cooperative activities as recommended by the South Commission, resources for TCDC would be substantially increased.

33. The major challenges facing countries during the 1990s required that the United Nations develop a global strategy for the wider application of TCDC during the coming decade. As the lead agency for the promotion and support of TCDC within the system, UNDP should take the leadership in that task. The Office of the Director-General would support that effort in every way possible.

B. Statement by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

34. The Administrator of UNDP noted that the Committee was meeting at a time when the prospects for TCDC were encouraging, challenging and exciting - encouraging because much progress had been made; challenging because of the many objectives still to be realized; and exciting because the future held tremendous promise for South-South cooperation.

35. It was important for TCDC to be seen not as a separate phenomenon, but as a key to the whole development effort. It was not an alternative but rather a complement to conventional forms of development assistance, and the challenge was to identify those sectors where TCDC had a distinct advantage. The Administrator noted that the UNDP Governing Council included TCDC as one of the six priority areas of focus for the fifth programming cycle. The Director of the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries had been included in the UNDP Action Committee.

36. TCDC must also be responsive to global events. Over the past two years, the world had changed in many dramatic and unexpected ways. To cite one example, Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union had joined the world-wide swing to the private sector and market-oriented economic systems. That was already affecting TCDC, which until recently had been mainly a government and public sector affair. Today, the private sector was playing an increasingly important role, for example in the programming exercises organized by the Special Unit, and it was also making good use of INRES-South, the TCDC Information Referral System being operated by the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries. The private sector, in fact, now accounted for 25 per cent of the entries in the INRES-South database.

37. In keeping with the changing times, a comprehensive review of TCDC would be undertaken in 1991. It was imperative that a strategy for the 1990s be developed based on the recommendations made as well as the experiences and insights gained in the 13 years since the Buenos Aires Plan of Action was adopted. It was expected that the elements of that strategy would include strengthening of the capacities of developing countries to promote and implement projects based on TCDC through their national focal points; concentration of scarce resources on a manageable number of sectors; pooling of resources by Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector; greater allocation by Governments of their indicative planning figures for follow-up of TCDC programming activities; expansion and refinement of the TCDC information base; and periodic evaluations of the TCDC programmes. The UNDP Governing Council would undertake an in-depth review of TCDC in 1993 as part of its programme review plan.

38. One of the major obstacles to TCDC was the belief among some that Northern technology, Northern experts and Northern thinking were always the best. The fact was that developing countries possessed an immense store of knowledge and expertise that they could share to their mutual benefit. The Administrator noted that nowhere was that more apparent than in the new series of the UNDP human development reports. The Human Development Index contained in those reports, which went beyond the traditional per capita GNP as a measure of national success, showed that many developing countries had achieved higher levels of human development than their richer neighbours.

39. In concluding his remarks, the Administrator noted many signs indicative of a growing commitment to TCDC. One evidence of that was the increasing financial and other support being provided by developing countries themselves. To give that increasing support still greater momentum, he urged all developing countries participating in the meeting to strive to integrate TCDC into the fabric of their development efforts.

C. Highlights of progress reports

40. The Administrator had submitted for consideration by the High-level Committee a series of reports on the progress achieved and difficulties encountered by Governments and organizations within and outside the United Nations development system in their efforts to implement the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. Highlights of those reports, which served as the main focus of the Committee's debate and its eventual decisions, are set out below.

1. Actions by Governments

41. The available information indicates that the use of TCDC as an instrument in meeting technical cooperation needs of Governments is on the increase, taking the form of bilateral agreements and specific TCDC activities.

42. There are indications of continuing efforts to strengthen national TCDC focal points and coordination mechanisms, and to locate them within governmental machinery where they can be most effective.

43. Allocation of financial resources for TCDC, including the use of indicative planning figures, requires more effort on the part of developing countries.

44. The quality and quantity of information received continues to be a cause for concern and may be reflective of weaknesses in the capacities of Governments and organizations to gather information and report on their TCDC activities.

2. Support by the United Nations development system

45. Most organizations of the United Nations development system have carried out both promotional and operational activities in support of TCDC during the past biennium. The system's efforts, however, have concentrated heavily on promotional TCDC activities. Numerous organizations report new and innovative approaches to TCDC.

46. As in previous years, it remains difficult to measure the system's support in quantitative financial terms or to determine accurately whether support during the past biennium has increased or decreased in comparison with previous periods. Few organizations provided statistical data in the form requested. Some confusion still exists regarding the distinction between promotional and operational activities, and the precise definitions of various categories of TCDC activities, as well as where the line is to be drawn between conventional intercountry activities and TCDC.

47. The available data indicate that during the biennium UNDP provided approximately $162 million, compared with $105 million in the previous biennium. That amount included $57 million channelled through other organizations of the system, which provided an additional $63 million from their own resources and other funds. The primary source of UNDP support by far was the intercountry indicative planning figures.

48. The UNDP Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries continued to focus on its promotional and action-oriented activities. TCDC programming exercises continued to figure prominently in the Unit's work programme, with six exercises organized during the period. There is a growing need for additional external financial resources to facilitate timely implementation of the technical cooperation activities agreed to in those meetings. A two-phased in-depth evaluation of the exercises is currently being carried out.

49. A review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit regarding TCDC (A/40/656, annex) shows that the Buenos Aires Plan of Action is still considered the basic framework for activities in support of TCDC and is still considered to be relevant.

50. The specific recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit are being implemented selectively and in varying degrees by the different organizations and in accordance with their own mandates and programming and budgetary procedures. The situation appears now to be largely stabilized, with few changes to be expected.

51. As a result of his assessment of the financial and budgetary situation of UNDP, the Administrator is proposing a reduction in the overall number of headquarters posts. In the case of the Special Unit, the Administrator is proposing eight posts in the Professional and nine in the General Service category for 1992-1993. That will increase the posts charged against core resources by one Professional post and one General Service post. However, of the two Professional and two General Service posts currently funded from Special Programme Resources, while one Professional and one General Service post were absorbed in the core budget, the second Professional and General Service post will not be continued. The reduction in the actual number of posts from the current staffing will be one Professional and one General Service post.

52. Although there is an increasing awareness among organizations of the United Nations development system of the need to integrate women in development in TCDC, and some have taken steps to do so, many have yet to take comprehensive action to identify obstacles to the role of women in TCDC and to adopt specific steps to overcome obstacles.

53. Available qualitative and quantitative data are limited and this affects the monitoring of progress of the integration of women in development in TCDC.

54. The Third Meeting of the TCDC Focal Points of the Organizations of the United Nations development system was held at Geneva on 5 and 6 June 1990 and attended by 13 organizations. The meeting examined questions of financing to promote, catalyse and support TCDC activities; the organizations' initiatives to provide more orientation and training of staff on TCDC and the programming of TCDC activities; information in support of TCDC; and impediments still inhibiting wide application of the TCDC modality.

55. The meeting made specific recommendations, which are detailed in its report (TCDC/7/6).

56. In response to a request of by the UNDP Governing Council, 21 United Nations development system organizations provided their views on the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of the United Nations development system concerning TCDC (DP/1990/77). The views of the organizations are summarized in the Administrator's report on the subject, together with his conclusions and recommendations.

IV. SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE

A. Overview

57. The Chairman of the Group of 77, speaking on behalf of the members of the Group, opened the general debate. He pointed out that many developing countries continued to face a difficult economic situation, which, in spite of their strong commitment, placed severe constraints on their ability to deploy the requisite resources needed to realize the full advantages of TCDC. In the 1980s many developing countries registered negative rates of growth. Onerous debt-service burdens and adverse terms of trade had drained enormous resources from developing countries to the detriment of much-needed domestic investment. Remedial measures were needed to deal with that situation and to achieve a greater degree of global economic democracy, so that the climate might become conducive to the transformation of TCDC into a significant and effective instrument for development.

58. Numerous delegations expressed their agreement with the Chairman's analysis of the global economic situation and its adverse impact on TCDC. Additional factors cited were unstable commodity prices, continuing protectionism on the part of developed countries and the failure thus far of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. Particularly worrisome was the decline in the net investment flows to the developing countries. When countries lacked resources needed for investment in essential infrastructure and services, it was more difficult for them to find the resources needed to support TCDC activities. At the same time, the current economic situation made it all the more imperative that developing countries take every possible opportunity to cooperate with one another for their mutual development.

59. Reaffirming the validity of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, many delegations emphasized that TCDC must not be viewed as a substitute for or replacement of North-South cooperation but rather as a complement to that forum of cooperation. As a mechanism for exchanging experience, information and appropriate technologies, upgrading skills and addressing common economic and social problems through complementarity of resources and needs, TCDC represented a cost-effective instrument for development that must be utilized to the maximum. The planning, organization, funding and implementation of TCDC activities were clearly the primary responsibility of the Governments concerned. Support from developed countries and from the United Nations system continued to be needed.

60. There was general agreement that while the application of the TCDC modality was increasing, progress had not been as rapid and widespread as had been hoped. Some delegations felt that that was attributable at least in part to the lack of a genuine and sustained commitment on the part of the international community to TCDC as an essential instrument for development. While many statements of support were continually being made in many forums, the actual level of support was not really commensurate with the rhetoric. It was suggested that a careful analysis of the documentation submitted to the Committee indicated that international support had not been very substantial during the past biennium.

61. One delegation expressed the view that lack of funding was not the major

constraint to TCDC. The more general view was that it was an important constraint but by no means the only one. Attitudinal, institutional and other problems remained the fundamental obstacles. A number of delegations agreed with the Administrator's comment about the view that Northern technology, experts and thinking were always the best and that that mentality constituted a serious impediment to TCDC.

62. Several delegations emphasized that to ensure progress in the field of TCDC, developing countries must be committed fully to the philosophy and political framework for expanded South-South cooperation. One delegation called on developing countries to evaluate the exact level of their commitment to TCDC and suggested that a similar assessment by the members of the international community was also needed.

63. The same delegation pointed out that while international assistance was needed, developing countries as a group could and should tap the assistance of international organizations by participating more actively in the preparation and planning of development projects and programmes to ensure their compatibility with country and regional priorities, thus making the programmes of international agencies more effective.

64. The continuing weakness of national TCDC focal points was cited by a number of delegations as another important constraint to TCDC. The problem was identified partly as one of funding, but to a greater extent of human resources. TCDC was a complex development activity that required trained and skilled personnel. One delegation expressed the view that the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries should expand its training and orientation activities.

65. There was general agreement that the lack of adequate and timely information on the capacities and needs of developing countries, and an effective mechanism for matching them, continued to hamper the growth of TCDC. Some progress in tackling those problems had been achieved through the TCDC Information Referral System, INRES-South, and through initiatives taken by developing countries and regional institutions in various regions, yet serious problems remained. The system should be more widely used, INRES-South outputs should continue to be improved qualitatively, and the information contained in it should be updated in a timely manner.

66. Lack of research on broad issues affecting TCDC and its importance to overall economic and social development and international economic relations generally was also cited by several delegations as an impediment to the growth of TCDC. Such studies were needed to make TCDC an integral and core component of international development efforts.

67. Despite continuing obstacles, many delegations felt that TCDC had continued to make progress, although not at the desired rate. That view was reinforced by the additional information provided by Governments and agencies in their statements to the High-level Committee on their TCDC activities during the past biennium.

68. Several delegations, however, expressed serious doubts as to whether any firm conclusions regarding progress could be drawn on the basis of the limited information available to the Committee. Those delegations noted the following:

(a) Only a relatively small number of Governments and international organizations had replied to the Administrator's request for information. Of those, very few provided statistics in the form and detail requested. As a result, the data presented in the documents were incomplete and fragmentary.

(b) Of serious concern also was the fact that some confusion continued to exist, as noted in several of the documents, regarding the distinction between promotional and operational TCDC activities, as well as the precise definitions of the various types of TCDC activities on which the Governments and organizations were asked to report, leaving too much scope for individual interpretation. As a result, the data collected were often not comparable and the statistical base was too weak to draw firm conclusions.

69. The above-mentioned problems had been complicated by the fact that insufficient time had been given to Governments and organizations on that occasion to assemble and analyse the information requested - a formidable task in view of the numerous institutions, departments and divisions involved in TCDC activities.

70. There was general agreement that the data- and information-gathering and reporting system needed to be simplified while increasing its coverage and accuracy. Future reporting should place greater emphasis on the results and outputs of TCDC activities than in the past. Particularly urgent was the need to clear up any confusion and ambiguity that still existed regarding what constituted TCDC.

71. Numerous delegations stressed that in order to remain relevant and central to the development effort, TCDC should not confine itself to the traditional sectors and problems alone. It was necessary to expand activities into areas of increasing concern to developing countries. The following were suggested by various delegations as areas that should be given more attention in future TCDC activities:

(a) The integration of women in TCDC activities, indeed in the development process, was a high priority. It was widely recognized that women played a key role in development at many levels. Greater involvement of women in TCDC activities would enable their talents and insights to be brought to bear on that important development modality. TCDC offered a unique opportunity to address specific concerns of women in the developing world, particularly by replicating appropriate technologies that would lighten women's domestic burdens and improve the quality of their lives. TCDC activities must move beyond studies of women's needs and concerns, "sensitization" workshops and so on to result-oriented operational projects designed to benefit women. Several delegations explicitly endorsed the recommendations contained in the Administrator's report.

(b) Development of technology was another area identified. Transfer of technology had long been a primary goal of technical assistance programmes in general and TCDC activities in particular. However, many countries were finding it increasingly difficult to gain access to newer technologies, either because the costs were too high, or because of restrictions on their exports. There was a growing need for groups of developing countries facing those problems to work together to develop their own indigenous technologies on a cooperative basis. That was an area that should be attractive to the donor community for support.

(c) TCDC could be applied to resolve emerging environmental issues. Another important area identified by several delegations as a potential area for TCDC was the environment and emerging environmental issues. The technologies and solutions that were being developed in the industrialized world were not necessarily appropriate or feasible for countries of the South. There again, "Northern thinking" was not necessarily the best. Many environmental problems required common international action, making that area again a particularly fruitful one for TCDC.

(d) The transition to market-oriented economies and strengthening of the private sector in countries that were seeking to move in that direction was also emphasized. One delegation pointed out that a primary constraint to such development was the acute shortage in many countries of entrepreneurial talent and management skills required to create efficient and viable private enterprises. Developing countries possessing a well-developed private sector were a rich resource for less developed countries seeking to make the transition to market economies

72. As a component of the private sector, non-governmental organizations need to be associated more closely with the effort to expand TCDC. One delegation representing a non-governmental organization provided information on a successful TCDC programming exercise promoted by the organization in the field of cooperatives, which had been inspired by and modelled on the Special Unit's programming exercise.

73. One representative drew attention to the severe economic hardships experienced by the least developed countries in the 1980s. He said that the resultant fall in net investment and the deterioration in productive capacity and physical infrastructure had further impaired their ability to resume growth and development. He urged the Special Unit for TCDC and the organizations of the United Nations development system to take fully into consideration the recommendations of the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (see A/CONF.147/Misc.9) in utilizing TCDC activities involving least developed countries. Greater use of TCDC modalities was also recommended in areas related to human and social development concerns, including the promotion and protection of human rights, in the absence of which sustainable development was not possible.

74. It was noted by a number of delegations that the sharp distinction made between TCDC and ECDC was becoming increasingly obsolete. A condition for dynamic and expanding TCDC was a well-functioning world economy and expanding economic cooperation among developing countries themselves. South-South international trade and investment flows could be stimulated through TCDC and vice-versa.

75. In view of the many changes taking place in the world, it was generally agreed that the time had come to develop a global strategy for TCDC in the 1990s, as proposed by the Director-General and the Administrator of UNDP. One delegation considered that that was long overdue and should be the most important task now facing everyone involved in TCDC. Several delegations suggested that the original objectives of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action should be reviewed in that connection.

76. One delegation expressed doubts about the need for a comprehensive review of TCDC referred to by the Administrator in his statement, as well as in the report on United Nations development system support for TCDC, on the grounds that little had changed in recent years, as noted in the report on the implementation of the Joint Inspection Unit recommendations (TCDC/7/7). The more general view was that such a review would be useful, provided it were carried out in an economical way and laid the basis for the preparation of a sound strategy for the future.

77. Several delegations from developed countries raised the question of the future role of the High-level Committee. One of them, speaking on behalf of four delegations, expressed the view that if TCDC had developed on the scale hoped for when the Buenos Aires Plan of Action was adopted, there would not now be a need for a High-level Committee. Even though that had not happened, the delegations questioned the continuing need for the High-level Committee in its present form since UNDP could monitor the progress of TCDC through its regular procedures. Another delegation suggested that if the High-level Committee was to continue, a meeting of the Committee every three years would be sufficient. An alternative suggestion was that the Committee's review of TCDC could usefully be linked with the UNDP mid-programming cycle review. In the intervening years UNDP could monitor TCDC and report to the Governing Council. One delegation expressed regret that no representatives of the operational divisions of UNDP were at the meeting of the Committee, despite past requests for their participation.

78. A delegation noted that if TCDC was to become an integral part of the development effort, it should be incorporated in the deliberations of agencies, governing bodies and Governments, where the real decisions were made.

79. Developing countries stressed the importance of the continuation of the High-level Committee. It was the only organ in which the whole range of the progress and problems of TCDC, both within and outside the United Nations development system, was regularly reviewed by those actually participating in TCDC, and in which measures for strengthening TCDC could be devised on the basis of an exchange of experience.

B. Actions by Governments

80. The report of the Administrator on the TCDC activities of Governments and intergovernmental organizations was supplemented by additional information provided by numerous delegations during the session. Through these statements detailed information was received from 19 Governments that had not been able to respond earlier to the Administrator's request, thus missing the deadline for the preparation of the report. A number of those were developing countries engaged in TCDC on a significant scale. Some other delegations whose countries had earlier provided information for the report supplied additional and updated data. The information available to the Committee on the actions taken by Governments and intergovernmental organizations was therefore considerably expanded.

81. All delegations who spoke emphasized that they continued to support TCDC and the Buenos Aires Plan of Action without reservation. Unfortunately, the world economic situation and resulting adverse impact on developing

countries' trade and investment flows had not permitted an expansion of TCDC activities on the scale desired during the past biennium. There was general agreement, however, that, despite the obstacles, most countries were continuing to make progress in their application of TCDC.

82. Several delegations reported increases in the amount of funding from national sources allocated to TCDC and a corresponding increase in bilateral TCDC agreements and expansion in promotional and operational activities.

83. A number of delegations reported taking steps to strengthen their national focal points. In several cases, new agencies for the promotion and management of international cooperation including TCDC had been established at a high level of government.

84. One delegation reported taking measures to strengthen its regional centres in several sectors of interest to neighbouring countries, accompanied by a significant increase in their use for training nationals of other countries. Several delegations reported increased activity to expand their national inventories of needs and resources, and to make the information available to potential TCDC partners.

85. Several delegations reported actions that had been taken to develop regional groupings as a vehicle for expanding exchanges with neighbouring countries and placing them on a more sustained institutional basis. Cited as successful examples were the establishment of the Economic Cooperation Organization between Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, and the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation.

86. Further information was provided on the highly developed and effective mechanism for TCDC activities among countries of the Latin American region. The mechanism aims at coordinating TCDC activities in the region; implementing regional sectoral programming exercises; and generally supporting cooperation among countries of the region. It was established with joint support from UNDP, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Latin American Economic System (SELA). It was suggested that that mechanism could serve as a valuable model for replication in other regions where there was as yet no regular communication and exchange of experience.

87. Statements from a number of delegations indicated a growing interest in interregional technical cooperation. It was pointed out that to be a viable development modality, TCDC must be cost effective, and that was more easily achieved through exchanges with nearby countries rather than far-distant ones. Nevertheless, there were also important advantages in drawing upon the experiences of, and developing closer economic ties with, countries of other regions. One delegation also pointed out that interregional TCDC was essential for the universalization of the TCDC modality.

88. In accordance with that concept, an East European delegate reported plans to establish a "Latin American House" to further communication and exchange with that region. ECLAC also described activities initiated with African countries, as well as plans to strengthen relations with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

89. Several delegations welcomed the TCDC programming exercises organized by the Special Unit as a vehicle for helping to promote interregional technical cooperation. One delegation stressed that programming exercises should be held according to the schedule agreed upon with the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

C. Support to technical cooperation among developing countries by the United Nations development system

90. Many delegations expressed appreciation for the support provided to TCDC in the past biennium by organizations of the United Nations development system, as well as other external support agencies. The UNDP Special Unit for TCDC was mentioned as having provided particularly valuable assistance to many countries through the TCDC programming exercises and other promotional and operational activities. Many delegations referred to other United Nations agencies and bilateral donors that had been partners in various TCDC initiatives. Delegations cited with particular satisfaction the decision of the UNDP Governing Council to include TCDC among the organization's six priority focus areas for national capacity-building in the fifth cycle; and the decision of the Administrator to include the Director of the Special Unit in the Action Committee, thus bringing the Unit increasingly into the centre of the UNDP programming process.

91. In view of the key promotional role played by the Special Unit for TCDC, a number of delegations, while noting that the number of posts to be financed from the core budget had been increased to eight, expressed concern over the recent proposal to reduce the staff of the Unit from nine to eight Professionals when the two posts financed by Special Programme Resources had been considered. That appeared to be inconsistent with the Governing Council's decision to include TCDC among the six priority areas for the next programming cycle. One delegation questioned whether it was appropriate for the Committee to go into that matter, which fell properly within the jurisdiction of the UNDP Governing Council.

92. Concern was also expressed by many delegations regarding the recommendation of UNDP management consultants (Kienbaum and Partners) that the Special Unit be brought under the Bureau for Programme Policy and Evaluation and eventually abolished. They stressed that the current mandate and special nature, importance and complexity of TCDC required that the current status and the integrity of the Unit should be preserved.

93. One delegation expressed the view that the support role of the Special Unit would be greatly enhanced if a closer dialogue could be established between the Unit and developing countries, enabling countries to participate more actively in the planning and implementation of the Unit's work programme and field projects. That had proved to be extremely beneficial in the case of SELA, which now functioned, in effect, as a supranational focal point for TCDC in the region.

94. One delegation expressed the view that the Special Unit should not become involved in operational activities because of the risk of possible duplication that that could involve. It should remain strictly a promotional and coordinating body.

95. Various delegations reported mixed results from the TCDC programming exercises organized with the assistance of the Special Unit. Available information indicated that large numbers of projects formulated at those sessions had not yet been implemented. In many cases, it was not known what the follow-up had been. One delegation strongly emphasized the need for careful and detailed planning of projects, based on the identified priorities of participating countries and assurance that the needed funds for implementation would be available. The in-depth evaluation of the exercises currently under way was welcomed.

96. With regard to the level of financial resources provided by the United Nations development system for TCDC, it was noted that approximately 72 per cent of the total amount came from UNDP resources and the balance from resources of organizations, trust funds and so on. Several delegations expressed the opinion that a better balance should be maintained.

97. One delegation suggested that the reported UNDP-financial support might well be overstated. About 75 per cent of the UNDP resources that were spent on TCDC activities executed by Governments or UNDP itself were reported to have come from centrally controlled resources. In that delegation's view, only those activities executed by Governments truly qualified as TCDC activities. Without knowing the breakdown between UNDP (OPS) and government execution with regard to those activities, no correct assessment of UNDP support for TCDC could be gained.

98. One delegation recommended that UNDP permit greater flexibility in the use of the 10 per cent of country indicative planning figures that could be used for the support of TCDC benefiting other countries.

99. Numerous delegations stated that while the United Nations development system should provide greater resources for TCDC, the main goal should be to integrate it into the mainstream of the system's development activities as an integral and widely applied modality in all programmes and projects. There was still too much of a tendency to regard TCDC as a separate activity, increasing the risk over time that that important development modality would become progressively marginalized. In that connection, one delegation cited General Assembly resolution 42/180 of 11 December 1987 in which the Assembly required TCDC to be used as an alternative modality in the execution of technical cooperation projects.

100. It was suggested that in addition to being represented on the UNDP Action Committee, the Special Unit should be more closely involved in programme consultations with Governments, as well as in the review and preparation of particular projects and programmes to be funded during the next cycle. The country programme advisory notes should pay particular attention to the role that TCDC could play in the country programme; and the preparation of those notes should be preceded by an analysis of TCDC components in the previous country programme.

101. One delegation pointed out that if the decision of the Governing Council designating TCDC a priority area for the next cycle was to produce the desired impact, it was essential that management personnel responsible for the programming of development activities be made fully aware of the decision and be adequately briefed on its implementation. That referred both to

Government development agencies and all organizations of the United Nations development system.

D. Financing of technical cooperation among developing countries

102. There was general agreement that the principal responsibility for initiating, organizing, financing and implementing TCDC activities lay with the developing countries themselves. Financial assistance from international organizations, third countries or other sources must accordingly be regarded as a complementary form of support and not as a substitute for countries' own resources. It follows that external funds accordingly should be viewed as a catalyst and a means of minimizing constraints on TCDC activities rather than as a source of direct support.

103. Without denying the above principles, many delegations noted that the current global economic situation and the severe pressures it placed on developing countries, discussed in earlier sections of the present report, greatly inhibited the capacity of many countries to expand or even in some cases maintain adequate levels of funding from their own resources. In that situation, ways needed to be found to obtain higher levels of support from the international community. Suggestions included increased support from organizations of the United Nations development system. As mentioned above, the principal source of the funding they were currently providing was UNDP resources.

104. A number of delegations underlined the need for countries in a position to do so to make greater use of the 10 per cent of their indicative planning figures authorized to be allocated for the benefit of other countries. That could be a considerable help to particularly disadvantaged and least developed countries. An increase in the Special Programme Resources at the disposal of the Special Unit would also be very helpful.

E. Procurement from developing countries

105. Several delegations noted that the utilization of developing country experts in United Nations development system projects and programmes still remained quite low. That was difficult to understand given the abundance of skills and talent that many developing countries now possessed.

106. It was noted that improvement had taken place with respect to the placing of fellows and the implementation of training programmes in institutions of developing countries. That trend was welcomed and representatives urged that it be continued.

V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

A. Report of the Chairman of the Working Group to the High-level Committee

107. At its sixth meeting, on 31 May, the Committee considered the report of the Chairman of the Working Group to the High-level Committee. The report of the Working Group recommended the adoption of 12 draft decisions, including the draft provisional agenda for the eighth session. The 12 decisions were adopted at the seventh meeting, on 6 June. The texts of the decisions are reproduced in annex I (decisions 7/1 to 7/12).

B. Views expressed following the adoption of the decisions

108. The Director of the Special Unit for TCDC stated that it was the understanding of the Administrator that decision 7/12 entailed no financial implications for UNDP.

109. With reference to the invitation to the Administrator contained in decision 7/9, he further stated that it was the understanding of the UNDP secretariat that the Administrator would report on the extent to which recommendations pertaining to TCDC in the report of the South Commission could be implemented.

C. Schedule and organization of work of the eighth session of the High-level Committee

110. The Committee adopted the draft provisional agenda for its eighth session (TCDC/6/L.9 - draft decision IX). The provisional agenda is contained in decision 7/12 (see annex I).

D. Draft report of the High-level Committee

111. The Committee authorized its Rapporteur to complete its report, taking into account any amendments or comments received from delegations.

VI. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

A. Closing statement by the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programm

112. In his closing statement, the Associate Administrator thanked the President, the Bureau and the High-level Committee for the inspiration and direction that they had provided during the meeting. He also expressed appreciation for members' commendations on the activities of UNDP, particularly those carried out through the Special Unit for TCDC. UNDP would continue to play an active role and would implement all the decisions and recommendations of the High-level Committee within the mandates given to UNDP with vigour and in a timely and efficient manner. Those which required consideration by the Governing Council would be brought to the attention of the Council.

113. The review of TCDC practices and the development of a TCDC strategy for the 1990s, proposed by the Administrator and endorsed by the Committee, would be undertaken in close consultation with Governments and agencies, and within the letter and spirit of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and subsequent decisions of the High-level Committee. The aim would be to develop a coherent approach based on past experiences, findings of evaluations and important recommendations of many studies carried out over the past years.

114. UNDP had taken special note of the Committee's concerns regarding the methodology for obtaining and reporting information on the progress of TCDC. The proposal endorsed by the Committee for the production of a consolidated analytical document and improvement of data-gathering methodology would be undertaken speedily. Pursuant to another decision of the Committee, the Governing Council would have before it at its current session the proposal to develop guidelines on TCDC policies and procedures for the United Nations system under the auspices of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

115. The Associate Administrator welcomed the offer of the Government of Morocco to host an international consultative meeting on TCDC in 1992. This was an important initiative for consultation and assessment of the state of TCDC and its future direction.

116. The Committee's debate had reaffirmed the strong support of Governments for TCDC and the need to make it a central modality in the implementation of development activities. The Committee called for renewed efforts by Governments and the United Nations system to pursue and realize this cardinal objective and the debate demonstrated a strong resolve to do so. UNDP and the United Nations system as a whole would, as stated by the Administrator in his opening statement, remain firmly committed to assisting the Committee to achieve that aim and thus build a stronger South.

B. Closing statement by the President

117. The President congratulated the delegations and the secretariat on the results that had been achieved at the seventh session of the High-level Committee and thanked all concerned for their participation. He expressed

particular appreciation for the work of the Chairman of the Working Group and the Rapporteur.

118. He noted that the principles of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action had been reaffirmed and that it was evident that Governments were providing strong support for TCDC. He expressed the view that the accomplishments of the present session, embodied in the decisions that had been taken, would provide the basis for further progress.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/35/39 and Corr.1).

3/ Ibid., Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/36/39).

4/ Ibid., Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/38/39).

5/ Ibid., Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/40/39).

6/ Ibid., Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/42/39).

7/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/44/39).

8/ The Challenge to the South: the Report of the South Commission, New York, Oxford University Press, 1990.

ANNEX I

Decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at its seventh session

7/1. Rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling its decisions 5/7 of 27 May 1987 and 6/3 of 29 September 1989, paragraphs 13 and 15, and decision 90/43 adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on 20 June 1990,

1. Takes note of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries, a/ and of the report by the Administrator b/ on the views of the organizations of the United Nations development system on that report;

2. Takes note also of the report of the Meeting of Governments of Developing Countries and Executing Agencies of the United Nations Development System on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries; c/

3. Recommends to the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme the convening in early 1992 of a special meeting of technical cooperation among developing countries focal points of the organizations of the United Nations development system to be devoted to the task of preparing guidelines for the review of policies and procedures in those organizations concerning technical cooperation among developing countries;

4. Also recommends that these guidelines be reviewed by the Administrative Committee on Coordination and transmitted to the High-level Committee for its consideration and adoption and for subsequent implementation by the organizations;

5. Further recommends that the Administrative Committee on Coordination, through the meetings of technical cooperation among developing countries focal points of the organizations, monitor the implementation of the guidelines on a regular basis;

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a/ DP/1990/77.

b/ TCDC/7/10.

c/ TCDC/WP/1991/L.2.

6. Requests the Administrator to report to the High-level Committee at its eighth session on the progress of the implementation of the present decision.

7/2. Intergovernmental programming exercises for technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 42/179 of 11 December 1987 and decision 44/450 of 22 December 1989 on further strengthening and improving intergovernmental programming exercises for technical cooperation among developing countries,

Recalling also its decision 6/5 of 29 September 1989 on the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries programming exercises, including meetings for negotiations with respect to technical cooperation among developing countries,

1. Takes note of the progress report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme d/ on strengthening and improving intergovernmental programming for technical cooperation among developing countries, which reviews the exercises and meetings convened during 1989 and 1990;

2. Notes the fact that the technical cooperation among developing countries programming exercises are being evaluated by independent consultants under the auspices of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries with the view to increasing and improving the effectiveness of exercises in further strengthening technical cooperation among developing countries;

3. Encourages Governments of developing countries that have formalized bilateral technical cooperation among developing countries projects and activities through past technical cooperation among developing countries programming exercises, to continue to provide the necessary financial and other resources to facilitate their implementation, including, where necessary, support from their country indicative planning figures;

4. Calls upon the international community to continue to provide support to supplement the resources of the developing countries in the implementation of projects agreed on in technical cooperation among developing countries programming exercises;

5. Calls upon the Administrator to ensure the implementation as per the agreed schedule programming exercises for which memoranda of understanding have been signed with Governments;

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d/ TCDC/7/4.

6. Requests the Administrator to undertake follow-up and evaluation of the programming exercises and, at the request of the participating developing countries, mobilize financial support for the projects and proposals agreed upon by the concerned countries;

7. Invites the Governments of developing countries to carry out follow-up and evaluation of technical cooperation among developing countries projects and to communicate their results to the Special Unit for technical cooperation among developing countries so as to facilitate the adoption of remedial measures;

8. Also invites the Governments of developing countries to identify ways and means for ensuring that technical cooperation among developing countries projects are consistent with national development plans and objectives;

9. Stresses the need for the United Nations development system to emphasize the importance of the sectoral approach and technical cooperation among developing countries regional, interregional and global programming exercises;

10. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report to the Committee at its eighth session on the implementation of the present decision with particular emphasis on the outcome of the evaluation of the exercises.

7/3. Strengthening the capacity of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling its decisions 3/8 of 6 June 1983, 4/3 of 5 June 1985, 5/2 of 27 May 1987 and 6/8 of 29 September 1989 concerning the strengthening of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in order to enable it to discharge all its mandated responsibilities effectively,

Recalling also decision 90/34 adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on 23 June 1990 designating technical cooperation among developing countries as one of the six priority areas of activity of the Programme during the fifth programming cycle,

Noting the rationale that has necessitated the staffing restrictions across the board in the United Nations Development Programme,

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme e/ and of the arrangements proposed therein for staffing the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries during the biennium 1992-1993;

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e/ TCDC/7/8.

2. Recommends that the status of those staff members who are funded from the Special Programme Resources should be regularized;

3. Also recommends that the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries be maintained with a view, inter alia, to strengthening its capacities to enable it to continue to execute its functions effectively;

4. Invites the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to review at its fortieth session the staffing level of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in relation to its mandated functions and growing responsibilities when considering the budgetary proposals for UNDP headquarters for the biennium 1994-1995;

5. Welcomes the inclusion of the Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in the Action Committee of the United Nations Development Programme and calls upon the Administrator also to include the Special Unit in other internal decision-making bodies of the organization, and to enable it to participate more closely in all policy and operational issues, in project approval, in country and intercountry programming processes, and in regional meetings of regional bureaux, in order to ensure that the technical cooperation among developing countries option receives the attention that it deserves.

7/4. Information from Governments and intergovernmental organizations on their activities in technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme entitled "Information from some Governments and intergovernmental organizations on their activities in technical cooperation among developing countries"; f/

2. Encourages the developing countries to continue to strengthen their national focal points for technical cooperation among developing countries with a view to enabling them to promote and coordinate technical cooperation among developing countries activities at the country level;

3. Encourages Governments of developed countries to continue to give their full support, in the endeavours of developing countries, in the identification, formulation and implementation of technical cooperation among developing countries activities in the framework of recommendations 35 and 36 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries; g/

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f/ TCDC/7/3.

g/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

4. Requests the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries:

(a) To improve and submit in a timely manner formats and questionnaires to Governments when requesting information from them on their support to technical cooperation among developing countries activities;

(b) To provide, together with these requests, clear definitions of technical cooperation among developing countries and of different categories of technical cooperation among developing countries activities and to illustrate their explanations with relevant examples;

(c) To include in the questionnaires a breakdown of personnel employed in technical cooperation among developing countries activities between experts from developing and from developed countries;

(d) To cooperate with the working group on statistics of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the further improvement of information to be obtained from Governments on their technical cooperation among developing countries activities with a view to eventually integrating support to technical cooperation among developing countries in standard reporting format of the Committee;

5. Invites Governments and intergovernmental organizations of developing and developed countries to provide to the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries information pertaining to their activities in technical cooperation among developing countries in the ensuing two-year period, not later than 30 December 1992, to facilitate the preparation of the Administrator's report, in a timely manner, to the High-level Committee at its eighth session.

7/5. Progress made by the United Nations development system in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee,

Reaffirming the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, g/

Emphasizing the important role that technical cooperation among developing countries can play in promoting socio-economic development in these countries,

Recalling decision 90/34 adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on designating technical cooperation among developing countries as one of the six priority areas of activity of the Programme during the fifth programming cycle,

Expressing concern that the resources made available from the United Nations development system for activities, programmes and projects for technical cooperation among developing countries have remained at an

inadequate level despite the high priority that the international community attaches to technical cooperation among developing countries,

Expressing concern also over the continuing inability of many of the organizations of the United Nations development system to measure their support for technical cooperation among developing countries in quantitative and financial terms that would reliably demonstrate the extent of progress achieved over preceding periods,

Expressing further concern over the uncertainty still prevailing among several organizations in distinguishing technical cooperation among developing countries activities from non-technical cooperation among developing countries activities, especially those under regional, interregional and global programmes being supported by the organizations,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Third Meeting of the Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries Focal Points of the Organizations of the United Nations Development System, h/

Recalling its decisions 5/5 of 27 May 1987 and 6/3 of 29 September 1989 concerning its review of the activities of the United Nations development system within the framework of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, 6/6 of 29 September 1989 concerning the role of women in technical cooperation among developing countries, and 6/7 of 29 September 1989 concerning the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit, and all other relevant decisions,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;

2. Welcomes the efforts to provide greater support to technical cooperation among developing countries activities made by the ten organizations of the United Nations development system that have provided information on their technical cooperation among developing countries activities to the High-level Committee;

3. Strongly urges the organizations of the United Nations development system to develop, without further delay, the capability to measure in quantitative and financial terms their support for technical cooperation among developing countries activities;

4. Considers that the figures contained in the Administrator's report give a highly inaccurate representation of the actual amount of support extended by the United Nations development system for technical cooperation among developing countries activities, which is probably based on an inaccurate understanding of what constitutes technical cooperation among developing countries or technical cooperation among developing countries support activities;

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h/ TCDC/7/6.

5. Emphasizes that the definition of technical cooperation among developing countries formulated by the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations concerning technical cooperation among developing countries in its report a/ should become the touchstone for determining whether or not a particular project is indeed a technical cooperation among developing countries project;

6. Recommends that the next meeting of the technical cooperation among developing countries focal points of the organizations of the United Nations development system address itself to this question and develop a common methodology for identifying, evaluating, reporting and following up on their technical cooperation among developing countries activities in accordance with the general principles established in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and in subsequent decisions of the High-level Committee, and as elaborated in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts, based on the interpretation of technical cooperation among developing countries formulated therein;

7. Further recommends that the common methodology for identifying, evaluating, reporting and following up on technical cooperation among developing countries activities thus developed should be used by all organizations in the preparation of the progress report for the eighth session of the High-level Committee;

8. Reaffirms that the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit contained in its report i/ concerning United Nations development system support to the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action remain valid, and calls upon the United Nations development system fully to implement those recommendations;

9. Reaffirms also the request contained in General Assembly resolution 42/180 of 11 December 1980, paragraph 10, relating to measures for enabling each developing country to have the choice of executing each technical cooperation project in total or in part under the technical cooperation among developing countries modality;

10. Decides that the reporting at future sessions of the High-level Committee on this and related subjects shall be based on a single document containing an analysis of the information to be provided by the organizations with conclusions and recommendations as appropriate, along with addenda giving in greater detail the information provided by the organizations;

11. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to consider effective measures to accelerate the pace of the use of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in the execution of sectoral projects financed from regional, interregional and global programmes and Special Programme Resources as appropriate, in consultation with the Governments concerned, in technical cooperation projects;

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i/ A/40/656, annex.

12. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to instruct the resident representatives to include the technical cooperation among developing countries modality, wherever appropriate, in technical cooperation projects;

13. Calls upon the organizations of the United Nations development system to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Third Meeting of the Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries Focal Points h/ and invites the meeting of the technical cooperation among developing countries focal points to be held preceding the next session of the High-level Committee to report on the implementation of these recommendations by the organizations of the United Nations development system;

14. Reaffirms its decisions 5/5, entitled "Progress made in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries", and 6/3, entitled "Review of the activities of the United Nations system within the framework of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries", and calls for their full implementation;

15. Encourages the governing bodies of all organizations of the United Nations development system fully to integrate the technical cooperation among developing countries modality or its components in the formulation and execution of projects in their regular programmes and trust funds and enhance the financing of projects;

16. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report to the High-level Committee at its eighth session on the implementation of the present decision and on the status of implementation by the United Nations development system of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit;

17. Further requests the Administrator, in conformity with standard practices to make reports available at least six weeks before the session of the High-level Committee.

7/6. Development of a strategy of technical cooperation among developing countries in the United Nations development system

The High-level Committee,

Appreciating that several useful exercises have been undertaken, and some are under way, to examine and evaluate specific aspects of technical cooperation among developing countries including the Joint Inspection Unit report on the United Nations development system support to the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, i/ the report of the meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries and the evaluation of technical

cooperation among developing countries programming exercises by independent consultants currently under way,

Convinced that many lessons have been, and are being, learned from technical cooperation among developing countries projects and activities carried out by developing countries themselves through bilateral and multilateral arrangements with the assistance of the United Nations development system,

Recalling the particular catalytic and promotional role of the United Nations Development Programme and, in this context, the allocation of funds from the Special Programme Resources of the Programme for the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries,

Noting that the fifth programming cycle for the utilization of the resources of the United Nations Development Programme begins in 1992 and that the Governing Council will review technical cooperation among developing countries in depth at its thirty-ninth session,

Recognizing the importance of developing, in accordance with the principles established in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, a strategy for the United Nations development system that will more efficiently respond to the needs of developing countries in the application of technical cooperation among developing countries for the 1990s,

1. Endorses the proposal of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme that an overall framework for the promotion and application of technical cooperation among developing countries in technical cooperation programmes and activities of the United Nations development system in the 1990s be formulated in accordance with the guidelines of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, taking fully into account the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts, the Joint Inspection Unit report, and ongoing evaluations, and in mutual consultation among all partners involved;

2. Requests the Administrator to report to the High-level Committee at its eighth session on the strategy developed for its review and comments.

7/7. Role of women in technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Underlining the principle of equal rights between men and women as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the mandate of the United Nations system, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 44/211 of 22 December 1989, to promote the full integration of women in development,

Reaffirming the validity of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, g/

Affirming its decision 6/6 of 29 September 1989 on the role of women in technical cooperation among developing countries,

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the role of women in technical cooperation among developing countries; j/

2. Expresses its concern at the little progress and the lack of practical relevance achieved by the United Nations development system in its endeavours to integrate women in technical cooperation among developing countries;

3. Decides that the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the United Nations Development Programme should:

(a) Allocate sufficient human and financial resources to the participation of women in technical cooperation among developing countries;

(b) Assist in ensuring that full account is taken of women's needs when considering the approval of projects for technical cooperation among developing countries;

(c) Continue to monitor progress made in the integration of women in technical cooperation among developing countries with special emphasis on the monitoring of action-oriented efforts;

(d) Cooperate with the relevant units of the United Nations Development Programme in the development and improvement of guidelines to ensure full access and participation of women in activities of technical cooperation among developing countries;

4. Urges the heads of all organs of the United Nations development system to fully support and cooperate with the United Nations Development Programme in all aspects of the integration of women in technical cooperation among developing countries and to design, in addition to undertaking the integration of women in technical cooperation among developing countries as a mainstream activity, specific projects in order to support income-generating efforts for women and to facilitate women's tasks, while taking account of the opportunity to spread appropriate technologies within technical cooperation among developing countries for the betterment of the situation of women;

5. Urges developed countries to continue to support actively the integration of women in technical cooperation among developing countries;

6. Invites developing countries to continue to intensify efforts to integrate women fully in their activities of technical cooperation among developing countries, taking fully into account the vast potential of appropriate technologies for the improvement of the situation of women;

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j/ TCDC/7/5.

7. Requests the Administrator to report on the implementation of the present decision to the High-level Committee at its eighth session.

7/8. The Challenge to the South: The Report of the South Commission

The High-level Committee,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 45/195 of 21 December 1990,

Taking note also of The Challenge to the South: The Report of the South Commission, k/ especially its contents regarding the role of South-South cooperation, particularly the priority areas contained therein,

Noting that the report gives a new impulse to economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

1. Welcomes the inclusion of an item entitled "Consideration of the report by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the extent to which the recommendations of the report of the South Commission pertaining to technical cooperation among developing countries could be implemented" in the programme of work of the High-level Committee, given its relevance to the issues relating to cooperation among developing countries;

2. Invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in close cooperation with the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, to prepare a report on the extent to which the recommendations of the report of the South Commission pertaining to technical cooperation among developing countries could be implemented;

3. Requests the Administrator to report to the High-level Committee at its eighth session on the implementation of the present decision.

7/9. International Consultative Meeting on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee

1. Welcomes the decision of the Government of Morocco to host an international consultative meeting on technical cooperation among developing countries in 1992 to examine ways and means to enhance this form of cooperation, taking into account the current state of progress in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries; g/

2. Calls upon States Members to be represented at the meeting at the highest level possible;

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k/ New York, Oxford University Press, 1990.

3. Calls upon the United Nations system, especially the United Nations Development Programme, to support the Government of Morocco in organizing the meeting and requests the Administrator of the Programme to report to the eighth session of the High-level Committee on the outcome of the meeting.

7/10. North-South round table on technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee

1. Invites donor countries to give growing attention to technical cooperation among developing countries in their foreign aid allocations;

2. Urges in particular interested Governments to organize a North-South round table comprising a selected number of countries and personalities to reflect on and assess general issues of technical cooperation among developing countries.

7/11. Technical cooperation among developing countries/economic cooperation among developing countries in the field of interregional trade

The High-level Committee

1. Underlines the need to undertake follow-up action to the Economic Commission for Africa/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Joint Meeting of Governmental Experts from Africa and Latin America on Economic and Technical Cooperation, held from 1 to 4 June 1982 at Addis Ababa, and to its action-oriented proposals in the areas of interregional technical cooperation among developing countries/economic cooperation among developing countries, namely, trade and finance, science and technology, and human resources, and to that end:

(a) Urges the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to start immediate consultations with a view to the rapid implementation of the first item in the above-mentioned proposals, that is, establishing a trade network between the two regions;

(b) Invites both regional commissions to give consideration to a phase I project aimed at establishing trade networks in their respective regions that would be linked up interregionally upon completion of the regional stage;

(c) Requests the two regional commissions to reinforce existing contacts with regional and subregional organizations like the Economic Community of West African States and the Latin American Economic System, as well as development finance institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the African Development Bank;

2. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to engage prompt action with the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for ensuring their early involvement in the implementation of the above-mentioned

trade network project, and to report at the organizational and special sessions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1992.

7/12. 1993 session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee,

Taking into account the views expressed at its seventh session,

Approves the following provisional agenda for its eighth session, to be held in 1993:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Election of the President of the session.

3. Election of the officers other than the President.

4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

5. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and decisions of the High-level Committee.

6. Consideration of reports by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on:

   (a) The international consultative meeting on technical cooperation among developing countries to be held in Morocco in 1992;

   (b) The extent to which the recommendations of the report of the South Commission pertaining to technical cooperation among developing countries could be implemented.

7. Review of the strategy for the promotion and support of technical cooperation among developing countries in the United Nations development system in the 1990s.

8. Organizational and supportive arrangements for technical cooperation among developing countries (such as administrative, legal, information and financial).

9. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

10. Provisional agenda for the 1995 session of the High-level Committee.

11. Other matters.

12. Adoption of the report of the High-level Committee on its eighth session.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the High-level Committee at its seventh session

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TCDC/7/L.2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
TCDC/7/1	Status of pre-session documents
TCDC/7/2 and Add.1-3	Progress made in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
TCDC/7/3	Information from some Governments on their activities in technical cooperation among developing countries
TCDC/7/4	Progress report on strengthening and improving intergovernmental programming for technical cooperation among developing countries
TCDC/7/5	Report on the activities of the United Nations development system in enhancing the participation of women in programmes for technical cooperation among developing countries
TCDC/7/6	Report of the meeting of the focal points of technical cooperation among developing countries of the organizations of the United Nations development system
TCDC/7/7	Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit for United Nations development system support to the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
TCDC/7/8	Measures to facilitate technical cooperation among developing countries - staffing of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
TCDC/7/9	Report of the meeting of organizations of the United Nations development system with developing countries for strengthening and improving activities for technical cooperation among developing countries
TCDC/7/10 and Add.1	Views of the organizations of the United Nations development system on the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries

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REPORT
OF THE
HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 39 (A/46/39)

UNITED NATIONS

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New York, 1991

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with recommendation 37 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, 1/ as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, a high-level meeting of all States participating in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was convened at Geneva from 26 May to 2 June 1980 to carry out an overall, intergovernmental review of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) within the United Nations development system. The report of the first session of the intergovernmental body 2/ was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. In its resolution 35/202 of 16 December 1980, the General Assembly decided, inter alia, to change the name of the high-level meeting to High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and requested the Administrator of UNDP to convene the next session of the Committee under the same organizational and procedural arrangements as had been made for the high-level meeting.

2. The second session of the High-level Committee met in New York from 1 to 8 June 1981 and its report 3/ was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session. In accordance with the agreement reached at the Committee's second session and endorsed by the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, the structure of the third session of the High-level Committee consisted of the Committee in plenary meeting and only one working group, and this practice has been followed in subsequent sessions.

3. The third session of the High-level Committee met in New York from 31 May to 6 June 1983 and its report 4/ was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

4. The fourth session was held in New York from 28 May to 3 June 1985. Its report 5/ was considered by the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

5. The fifth session was held in New York from 18 to 22 May 1987 and its report 6/ was adopted on 27 May 1987. The General Assembly considered that report at its forty-second session.

6. The sixth session was held in New York from 18 to 22 September 1989 and its report 7/ adopted on 29 September 1989. The General Assembly reviewed that report at its forty-fourth session.

II. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Date and place of the session

7. The seventh session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries was held in New York from 28 to 31 May 1991. The High-level Committee held a further meeting on 6 June 1991 to consider the adoption of its report.

8. In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 35/202, the session was convened by the Administrator of UNDP under the usual procedural arrangements.

B. Attendance

9. The following 82 States Members of the United Nations participating in UNDP were represented at the session:

Albania
Algeria
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Australia
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Benin
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
Canada
Cape Verde
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Cuba
Czechoslovakia
Denmark
Ecuador
Egypt
Finland
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guinea-Bissau
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Kenya
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Malaysia
Mali
Mexico
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Norway
Pakistan
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Rwanda
Saint Lucia
Saudi Arabia
Sierra Leone
Spain
Suriname
Swaziland
Sweden
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
United Arab Emirates
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yugoslavia
Zaire
Zambia

10. In addition, representatives of the Observer Missions of the Republic of Korea and Switzerland to the United Nations, which are also participating in the work of UNDP, took part in the discussions of the Committee.

11. Members of the following offices and departments of the United Nations Secretariat participated in the proceedings of the session:

Department of Technical Cooperation for Development

Office of the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

United Nations Population Fund

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

12. The following regional commissions were represented:

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

13. The following United Nations bodies were also represented:

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

United Nations Volunteers programme

World Food Council

World Food Programme

United Nations Centre for Human Rights

14. Representatives of the following specialized agencies and related organizations attended the sessions:

International Labour Organisation

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

World Health Organization

World Bank

International Monetary Fund

World Metereological Organization

International Maritime Organization

World Intellectual Property Organization

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

15. The following intergovernmental organizations, which have received a standing invitation to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly, were represented at the session:

African Development Bank

Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee

Latin American Economic System

Organization of American States

16. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended the session as observers:

Asian Clearing Union

Asian Non-Governmental Organizations Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

Banco Centroamericano de Integración Económica

Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

International Association of Juvenile and Family Court Magistrates

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage

International Council on Archives

International Council on Social Welfare

International Organization for Migration

Third World Academy of Sciences

17. As proposed by the Administrator of UNDP in his report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session (A/34/415, para. 7), and as approved by the Assembly in its resolution 34/117 of 14 December 1979, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were invited. The following were represented at the session:

Airport Association Council International

All India Women's Conference

Arab Women's Solidarity Association

Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Croxton Collaborative

International Chamber of Commerce

International Cooperative Alliance

League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Pan African Islamic Society for Agro-cultural Development

Paul Segal Associates Architects

Seventh-Day Adventists

Women's World Banking

World Association of Former United Nations Interns and Fellows, Inc.

World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession

World Peace Council

C. Opening of the session and election of the President

(Agenda items 1 and 2)

18. The seventh session of the High-level Committee was opened by Mr. Mohammad A. Abulhasan, Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations and President of the sixth session of the High-level Committee.

19. Mr. Eduard Kukan, Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations, was elected President of the High-level Committee by acclamation.

20. In his opening statement, the President noted that many changes were currently taking place in the world, the pace of which had accelerated during the past biennium. Particularly noteworthy were the progress achieved in the area of human rights and the movement towards market-oriented economies in Eastern Europe as well as in other parts of the world. Those trends needed to be supported through expanded international cooperation.

21. Technical cooperation among developing countries remained a key element in global economic cooperation. Its purpose was not to displace North-South Cooperation with South-South Cooperation but to complement the former within a cooperative framework that was truly universal. That was the challenge facing the international community. Cooperation in the areas of trade and investment were a particularly high priority for the future. The President noted that his own country, Czechoslavakia, had a long-standing tradition of cooperation with other countries, including multilateral cooperation arrangements within the United Nations system, and it intended to continue that tradition.

22. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action remained valid and continued to be the main legislative framework for TCDC. The President noted that the General Assembly had reaffirmed the importance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action as recently as December 1989 (General Assembly resolution 44/223).

23. Despite some obstacles, TCDC continued to make progress, although not to the desired extent. The task of the High-level Committee was to identify the constraints that continued to exist and to suggest ways in which they could be diminished so that future progress could be accelerated.

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 4)

24. The High-level Committee adopted the agenda (TCDC/7/L.1) and the organization of work (TCDC/7/L.2). It was agreed that agenda items 5 and 6 would be the subject of the general debate in plenary meeting. The Working Group, which began its work on 28 May, was assigned agenda items 5 and 6. For a list of documents considered by the Committee at its seventh session, see annex II.

E. Election of officers other than the President

(Agenda item 3)

25. The following officers were elected by acclamation:

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Ahmed Amaziane (Morocco)

Ms. Guadalupe Hung Pacheco (Honduras)

Rapporteur: Ms. Tehmina Janjua (Pakistan)

26. The Committee approved the President's recommendation that Mr. Amaziane should act as Chairman of the Working Group. It was subsequently agreed that the Chairman should also serve as Rapporteur of the Working Group.

III. REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION

(Agenda items 5 and 6)

A. Statement by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation

27. In his statement, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation recalled a number of points made by him at the sixth session. He pointed out that TCDC as a modality for the promotion of collective development had not been fully put to use. Even 35 years after the historic Bandung Conference, developing countries had still not succeeded in integrating TCDC into the activities of their government organizations. As a modality essential to the development process, TCDC should be strongly supported by bilateral partners, in particular with the necessary financial support. The United Nations system, thanks to its unique network of field offices and organizations covering all sectors, must mobilize the capacities and experiences that had a bearing on TCDC within the context of overall development activities. The proper development of TCDC within the United Nations system was dependent on a transformation of attitudes and the development of effective policies and procedures as well as the establishment of mechanisms for continuing assessment of the capacities of developing countries, wide diffusion of that information, and the adoption by developing countries of measures required to take advantage of that information. He added that two years later those observations were still relevant, despite the progress, limited but real, that had been made.

28. Within the United Nations system, TCDC had continued to grow. UNDP, which had the lead responsibility for TCDC within the system, had taken a number of concrete and positive steps to strengthen the movement. The Governing Council had included TCDC among the six areas to be given priority during the next programming cycle. The Special Programme Resources allocation for TCDC had been increased substantially and the Administrator was currently considering other measures to integrate TCDC in UNDP activities. In that connection, the Director-General noted with satisfaction that the Administrator did not appear inclined to support the recommendation introduced by Kienbaum and Partners in their study of the senior management structure of UNDP that the Special Unit be merged into the Bureau for Programme Policy and Evaluation and in due course be abolished. The importance and complexity of TCDC and the central role played by the Special Unit argued strongly in favour of the Administrator's position on that matter.

29. Other organizations of the United Nations system had accorded higher priority to TCDC than in the past. That was particularly true of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which had made increasing use of TCDC modalities in their development activities.

30. The South Commission, under the chairmanship of President Julius K. Nyerere of the United Republic of Tanzania, had produced an excellent report entitled The Challenge to the South, 8/ which laid the basis for injecting new life into TCDC. The report emphasized the urgent need for countries of the South to organize themselves effectively for South-South

cooperation in a wide range of development activities based on the complementarity of resources and growing collective self-reliance.

31. In concluding his statement, the Director-General noted that, in his report of 29 January 1989 reviewing operational development activities, he had examined at length the question of TCDC. An important point in the review was that TCDC could not bear full fruit unless developing countries intensified and expanded economic cooperation among themselves, a minimum requirement for which was the establishment of national focal points, where they did not exist, supported by the necessary resources.

32. One of the major obstacles to the expansion of TCDC continued to be insufficient financial resources. While the Governing Council of UNDP had authorized countries to use up to $7.5 million or 10 per cent of their indicative planning figures (whichever was smaller) for TCDC activities to benefit other countries, none had reached that level thus far. If a substantial portion of UNDP regional and interregional resources were made available for cooperative activities as recommended by the South Commission, resources for TCDC would be substantially increased.

33. The major challenges facing countries during the 1990s required that the United Nations develop a global strategy for the wider application of TCDC during the coming decade. As the lead agency for the promotion and support of TCDC within the system, UNDP should take the leadership in that task. The Office of the Director-General would support that effort in every way possible.

B. Statement by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

34. The Administrator of UNDP noted that the Committee was meeting at a time when the prospects for TCDC were encouraging, challenging and exciting - encouraging because much progress had been made; challenging because of the many objectives still to be realized; and exciting because the future held tremendous promise for South-South cooperation.

35. It was important for TCDC to be seen not as a separate phenomenon, but as a key to the whole development effort. It was not an alternative but rather a complement to conventional forms of development assistance, and the challenge was to identify those sectors where TCDC had a distinct advantage. The Administrator noted that the UNDP Governing Council included TCDC as one of the six priority areas of focus for the fifth programming cycle. The Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries had been included in the UNDP Action Committee.

36. TCDC must also be responsive to global events. Over the past two years, the world had changed in many dramatic and unexpected ways. To cite one example, Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union had joined the worldwide swing to the private sector and market-oriented economic systems. That was already affecting TCDC, which until recently had been mainly a government and public sector affair. Today, the private sector was playing an increasingly important role, for example in the programming exercises organized by the Special Unit, and it was also making good use of INRES-South, the TCDC Information Referral System being operated by the Special Unit for Technical

Cooperation among Developing Countries. The private sector, in fact, now accounted for 25 per cent of the entries in the INRES-South database.

37. In keeping with the changing times, a comprehensive review of TCDC would be undertaken in 1991. It was imperative that a strategy for the 1990s be developed based on the recommendations made as well as the experiences and insights gained in the 13 years since the Buenos Aires Plan of Action was adopted. It was expected that the elements of that strategy would include strengthening of the capacities of developing countries to promote and implement projects based on TCDC through their national focal points; concentration of scarce resources on a manageable number of sectors; pooling of resources by Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector; greater allocation by Governments of their indicative planning figures for follow-up of TCDC programming activities; expansion and refinement of the TCDC information base; and periodic evaluations of the TCDC programmes. The UNDP Governing Council would undertake an in-depth review of TCDC in 1993 as part of its programme review plan.

38. One of the major obstacles to TCDC was the belief among some that Northern technology, Northern experts and Northern thinking were always the best. The fact was that developing countries possessed an immense store of knowledge and expertise that they could share to their mutual benefit. The Administrator noted that nowhere was that more apparent than in the new series of UNDP human development reports. The Human Development Index contained in those reports, which went beyond the traditional per capita GNP as a measure of national success, showed that many developing countries had achieved higher levels of human development than their richer neighbours.

39. In concluding his remarks, the Administrator noted many signs indicative of a growing commitment to TCDC. One evidence of that was the increasing financial and other support being provided by developing countries themselves. To give that increasing support still greater momentum, he urged all developing countries participating in the meeting to strive to integrate TCDC into the fabric of their development efforts.

C. Highlights of progress reports

40. The Administrator had submitted for consideration by the High-level Committee a series of reports on the progress achieved and difficulties encountered by Governments and organizations within and outside the United Nations development system in their efforts to implement the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. Highlights of those reports, which served as the main focus of the Committee's debate and its eventual decisions, are set out below.

1. Actions by Governments

41. The available information indicates that the use of TCDC as an instrument in meeting technical cooperation needs of Governments is on the increase, taking the form of bilateral agreements and specific TCDC activities.

42. There are indications of continuing efforts to strengthen national TCDC focal points and coordination mechanisms, and to locate them within governmental machinery where they can be most effective.

43. Allocation of financial resources for TCDC, including the use of indicative planning figures, requires more effort on the part of developing countries.

44. The quality and quantity of information received continues to be a cause for concern and may be reflective of weaknesses in the capacities of Governments and organizations to gather information and report on their TCDC activities.

2. Support by the United Nations development system

45. Most organizations of the United Nations development system have carried out both promotional and operational activities in support of TCDC during the past biennium. The system's efforts, however, have concentrated heavily on promotional TCDC activities. Numerous organizations report new and innovative approaches to TCDC.

46. As in previous years, it remains difficult to measure the system's support in quantitative financial terms or to determine accurately whether support during the past biennium has increased or decreased in comparison with previous periods. Few organizations provided statistical data in the form requested. Some confusion still exists regarding the distinction between promotional and operational activities, and the precise definitions of various categories of TCDC activities, as well as where the line is to be drawn between conventional intercountry activities and TCDC.

47. The available data indicate that during the biennium UNDP provided approximately $162 million, compared with $105 million in the previous biennium. That amount included $57 million channelled through other organizations of the system, which provided an additional $63 million from their own resources and other funds. The primary source of UNDP support by far was the intercountry indicative planning figures.

48. The UNDP Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries continued to focus on its promotional and action-oriented activities. TCDC programming exercises continued to figure prominently in the Unit's work programme, with six exercises organized during the period. There is a growing need for additional external financial resources to facilitate timely implementation of the technical cooperation activities agreed to in those meetings. A two-phased in-depth evaluation of the exercises is currently being carried out.

49. A review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit regarding TCDC (A/40/656, annex) shows that the Buenos Aires Plan of Action is still considered the basic framework for activities in support of TCDC and is still considered to be relevant.

50. The specific recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit are being implemented selectively and in varying degrees by the different organizations and in accordance with their own mandates and programming and budgetary procedures. The situation appears now to be largely stabilized, with few changes to be expected.

51. As a result of his assessment of the financial and budgetary situation of UNDP, the Administrator is proposing a reduction in the overall number of headquarters posts. In the case of the Special Unit, the Administrator is proposing eight posts in the Professional and nine in the General Service category for 1992-1993. That will increase the posts charged against core resources by one Professional post and one General Service post. However, of the two Professional and two General Service posts currently funded from Special Programme Resources, while one Professional and one General Service post were absorbed in the core budget, the second Professional and General Service post will not be continued. The reduction in the actual number of posts from the current staffing will be one Professional and one General Service post.

52. Although there is an increasing awareness among organizations of the United Nations development system of the need to integrate women in development in TCDC, and some have taken steps to do so, many have yet to take comprehensive action to identify obstacles to the role of women in TCDC and to adopt specific steps to overcome obstacles.

53. Available qualitative and quantitative data are limited and this affects the monitoring of progress of the integration of women in development in TCDC.

54. The Third Meeting of the TCDC Focal Points of the Organizations of the United Nations development system was held at Geneva on 5 and 6 June 1990 and attended by 13 organizations. The meeting examined questions of financing to promote, catalyse and support TCDC activities; the organizations' initiatives to provide more orientation and training of staff on TCDC and the programming of TCDC activities; information in support of TCDC; and impediments still inhibiting wide application of the TCDC modality.

55. The meeting made specific recommendations, which are detailed in its report (TCDC/7/6).

56. In response to a request by the UNDP Governing Council, 21 United Nations development system organizations provided their views on the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of the United Nations development system concerning TCDC (DP/1990/77). The views of the organizations are summarized in the Administrator's report on the subject, together with his conclusions and recommendations.

IV. SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE

A. Overview

57. The Chairman of the Group of 77, speaking on behalf of the members of the Group, opened the general debate. He pointed out that many developing countries continued to face a difficult economic situation, which, in spite of their strong commitment, placed severe constraints on their ability to deploy the requisite resources needed to realize the full advantages of TCDC. In the 1980s many developing countries registered negative rates of growth. Onerous debt-service burdens and adverse terms of trade had drained enormous resources from developing countries to the detriment of much-needed domestic investment. Remedial measures were needed to deal with that situation and to achieve a greater degree of global economic democracy, so that the climate might become conducive to the transformation of TCDC into a significant and effective instrument for development.

58. Numerous delegations expressed their agreement with the Chairman's analysis of the global economic situation and its adverse impact on TCDC. Additional factors cited were unstable commodity prices, continuing protectionism on the part of developed countries and the failure thus far of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. Particularly worrisome was the decline in the net investment flows to the developing countries. When countries lacked resources needed for investment in essential infrastructure and services, it was more difficult for them to find the resources needed to support TCDC activities. At the same time, the current economic situation made it all the more imperative that developing countries take every possible opportunity to cooperate with one another for their mutual development.

59. Reaffirming the validity of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, many delegations emphasized that TCDC must not be viewed as a substitute for or replacement of North-South cooperation but rather as a complement to that forum of cooperation. As a mechanism for exchanging experience, information and appropriate technologies, upgrading skills and addressing common economic and social problems through complementarity of resources and needs, TCDC represented a cost-effective instrument for development that must be utilized to the maximum. The planning, organization, funding and implementation of TCDC activities were clearly the primary responsibility of the Governments concerned. Support from developed countries and from the United Nations system continued to be needed.

60. There was general agreement that while the application of the TCDC modality was increasing, progress had not been as rapid and widespread as had been hoped. Some delegations felt that that was attributable at least in part to the lack of a genuine and sustained commitment on the part of the international community to TCDC as an essential instrument for development. While many statements of support were continually being made in many forums, the actual level of support was not really commensurate with the rhetoric. It was suggested that a careful analysis of the documentation submitted to the Committee indicated that international support had not been very substantial during the past biennium.

61. One delegation expressed the view that lack of funding was not the major constraint to TCDC. The more general view was that it was an important constraint but by no means the only one. Attitudinal, institutional and other problems remained the fundamental obstacles. A number of delegations agreed with the Administrator's comment about the view that Northern technology, experts and thinking were always the best and that that mentality constituted a serious impediment to TCDC.

62. Several delegations emphasized that to ensure progress in the field of TCDC, developing countries must be committed fully to the philosophy and political framework for expanded South-South cooperation. One delegation called on developing countries to evaluate the exact level of their commitment to TCDC and suggested that a similar assessment by the members of the international community was also needed.

63. The same delegation pointed out that while international assistance was needed, developing countries as a group could and should tap the assistance of international organizations by participating more actively in the preparation and planning of development projects and programmes to ensure their compatibility with country and regional priorities, thus making the programmes of international agencies more effective.

64. The continuing weakness of national TCDC focal points was cited by a number of delegations as another important constraint to TCDC. The problem was identified partly as one of funding, but to a greater extent of human resources. TCDC was a complex development activity that required trained and skilled personnel. One delegation expressed the view that the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries should expand its training and orientation activities.

65. There was general agreement that the lack of adequate and timely information on the capacities and needs of developing countries, and an effective mechanism for matching them, continued to hamper the growth of TCDC. Some progress in tackling those problems had been achieved through the TCDC Information Referral System, INRES-South, and through initiatives taken by developing countries and regional institutions in various regions, yet serious problems remained. The system should be more widely used, INRES-South outputs should continue to be improved qualitatively, and the information contained in it should be updated in a timely manner.

66. Lack of research on broad issues affecting TCDC and its importance to overall economic and social development and international economic relations generally was also cited by several delegations as an impediment to the growth of TCDC. Such studies were needed to make TCDC an integral and core component of international development efforts.

67. Despite continuing obstacles, many delegations felt that TCDC had continued to make progress, although not at the desired rate. That view was reinforced by the additional information provided by Governments and agencies in their statements to the High-level Committee on their TCDC activities during the past biennium.

68. Several delegations, however, expressed serious doubts as to whether any firm conclusions regarding progress could be drawn on the basis of the limited

information available to the Committee. Those delegations noted the following:

(a) Only a relatively small number of Governments and international organizations had replied to the Administrator's request for information. Of those, very few provided statistics in the form and detail requested. As a result, the data presented in the documents were incomplete and fragmentary.

(b) Of serious concern also was the fact that some confusion continued to exist, as noted in several of the documents, regarding the distinction between promotional and operational TCDC activities, as well as the precise definitions of the various types of TCDC activities on which the Governments and organizations were asked to report, leaving too much scope for individual interpretation. As a result, the data collected were often not comparable and the statistical base was too weak to draw firm conclusions.

69. The above-mentioned problems had been complicated by the fact that insufficient time had been given to Governments and organizations on that occasion to assemble and analyse the information requested - a formidable task in view of the numerous institutions, departments and divisions involved in TCDC activities.

70. There was general agreement that the data- and information-gathering and reporting system needed to be simplified while increasing its coverage and accuracy. Future reporting should place greater emphasis on the results and outputs of TCDC activities than in the past. Particularly urgent was the need to clear up any confusion and ambiguity that still existed regarding what constituted TCDC.

71. Numerous delegations stressed that in order to remain relevant and central to the development effort, TCDC should not confine itself to the traditional sectors and problems alone. It was necessary to expand activities into areas of increasing concern to developing countries. The following were suggested by various delegations as areas that should be given more attention in future TCDC activities:

(a) The integration of women in TCDC activities, indeed in the development process, was a high priority. It was widely recognized that women played a key role in development at many levels. Greater involvement of women in TCDC activities would enable their talents and insights to be brought to bear on that important development modality. TCDC offered a unique opportunity to address specific concerns of women in the developing world, particularly by replicating appropriate technologies that would lighten women's domestic burdens and improve the quality of their lives. TCDC activities must move beyond studies of women's needs and concerns, "sensitization" workshops and so on to result-oriented operational projects designed to benefit women. Several delegations explicitly endorsed the recommendations contained in the Administrator's report.

(b) Development of technology was another area identified. Transfer of technology had long been a primary goal of technical assistance programmes in general and TCDC activities in particular. However, many countries were finding it increasingly difficult to gain access to newer technologies, either because the costs were too high, or because of restrictions on their exports.

There was a growing need for groups of developing countries facing those problems to work together to develop their own indigenous technologies on a cooperative basis. That was an area that should be attractive to the donor community for support.

(c) TCDC could be applied to resolve emerging environmental issues. Another important area identified by several delegations as a potential area for TCDC was the environment and emerging environmental issues. The technologies and solutions that were being developed in the industrialized world were not necessarily appropriate or feasible for countries of the South. There again, "Northern thinking" was not necessarily the best. Many environmental problems required common international action, making that area again a particularly fruitful one for TCDC.

(d) The transition to market-oriented economies and strengthening of the private sector in countries that were seeking to move in that direction was also emphasized. One delegation pointed out that a primary constraint to such development was the acute shortage in many countries of entrepreneurial talent and management skills required to create efficient and viable private enterprises. Developing countries possessing a well-developed private sector were a rich resource for less developed countries seeking to make the transition to market economies.

72. As a component of the private sector, non-governmental organizations need to be associated more closely with the effort to expand TCDC. One delegation representing a non-governmental organization provided information on a successful TCDC programming exercise promoted by the organization in the field of cooperatives, which had been inspired by and modelled on the Special Unit's programming exercise.

73. One representative drew attention to the severe economic hardships experienced by the least developed countries in the 1980s. He said that the resultant fall in net investment and the deterioration in productive capacity and physical infrastructure had further impaired their ability to resume growth and development. He urged the Special Unit for TCDC and the organizations of the United Nations development system to take fully into consideration the recommendations of the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (see A/CONF.147/Misc.9) in utilizing TCDC activities involving least developed countries. Greater use of TCDC modalities was also recommended in areas related to human and social development concerns, including the promotion and protection of human rights, in the absence of which sustainable development was not possible.

74. It was noted by a number of delegations that the sharp distinction made between TCDC and ECDC was becoming increasingly obsolete. A condition for dynamic and expanding TCDC was a well-functioning world economy and expanding economic cooperation among developing countries themselves. South-South international trade and investment flows could be stimulated through TCDC and vice versa.

75. In view of the many changes taking place in the world, it was generally agreed that the time had come to develop a global strategy for TCDC in the 1990s, as proposed by the Director-General and the Administrator of UNDP. One

delegation considered that that was long overdue and should be the most important task now facing everyone involved in TCDC. Several delegations suggested that the original objectives of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action should be reviewed in that connection.

76. One delegation expressed doubts about the need for a comprehensive review of TCDC referred to by the Administrator in his statement, as well as in the report on United Nations development system support for TCDC, on the grounds that little had changed in recent years, as noted in the report on the implementation of the Joint Inspection Unit recommendations (TCDC/7/7). The more general view was that such a review would be useful, provided it were carried out in an economical way and laid the basis for the preparation of a sound strategy for the future.

77. Several delegations from developed countries raised the question of the future role of the High-level Committee. One of them, speaking on behalf of four delegations, expressed the view that if TCDC had developed on the scale hoped for when the Buenos Aires Plan of Action was adopted, there would not now be a need for a High-level Committee. Even though that had not happened, the delegations questioned the continuing need for the High-level Committee in its present form since UNDP could monitor the progress of TCDC through its regular procedures. Another delegation suggested that if the High-level Committee was to continue, a meeting of the Committee every three years would be sufficient. An alternative suggestion was that the Committee's review of TCDC could usefully be linked with the UNDP mid-programming cycle review. In the intervening years UNDP could monitor TCDC and report to the Governing Council. One delegation expressed regret that no representatives of the operational divisions of UNDP were at the meeting of the Committee, despite past requests for their participation.

78. A delegation noted that if TCDC was to become an integral part of the development effort, it should be incorporated in the deliberations of agencies, governing bodies and Governments, where the real decisions were made.

79. Developing countries stressed the importance of the continuation of the High-level Committee. It was the only organ in which the whole range of the progress and problems of TCDC, both within and outside the United Nations development system, was regularly reviewed by those actually participating in TCDC, and in which measures for strengthening TCDC could be devised on the basis of an exchange of experience.

B. Actions by Governments

80. The report of the Administrator on the TCDC activities of Governments and intergovernmental organizations was supplemented by additional information provided by numerous delegations during the session. Through these statements detailed information was received from 19 Governments that had not been able to respond earlier to the Administrator's request, thus missing the deadline for the preparation of the report. A number of those were developing countries engaged in TCDC on a significant scale. Some other delegations whose countries had earlier provided information for the report supplied additional and updated data. The information available to the Committee on the actions

taken by Governments and intergovernmental organizations was therefore considerably expanded.

81. All delegations who spoke emphasized that they continued to support TCDC and the Buenos Aires Plan of Action without reservation. Unfortunately, the world economic situation and resulting adverse impact on developing countries' trade and investment flows had not permitted an expansion of TCDC activities on the scale desired during the past biennium. There was general agreement, however, that, despite the obstacles, most countries were continuing to make progress in their application of TCDC.

82. Several delegations reported increases in the amount of funding from national sources allocated to TCDC and a corresponding increase in bilateral TCDC agreements and expansion in promotional and operational activities.

83. A number of delegations reported taking steps to strengthen their national focal points. In several cases, new agencies for the promotion and management of international cooperation including TCDC had been established at a high level of government.

84. One delegation reported taking measures to strengthen its regional centres in several sectors of interest to neighbouring countries, accompanied by a significant increase in their use for training nationals of other countries. Several delegations reported increased activity to expand their national inventories of needs and resources, and to make the information available to potential TCDC partners.

85. Several delegations reported actions that had been taken to develop regional groupings as a vehicle for expanding exchanges with neighbouring countries and placing them on a more sustained institutional basis. Cited as successful examples were the establishment of the Economic Cooperation Organization between the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, and the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation.

86. Further information was provided on the highly developed and effective mechanism for TCDC activities among countries of the Latin American region. The mechanism aims at coordinating TCDC activities in the region; implementing regional sectoral programming exercises; and generally supporting cooperation among countries of the region. It was established with joint support from UNDP, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Latin American Economic System (SELA). It was suggested that that mechanism could serve as a valuable model for replication in other regions where there was as yet no regular communication and exchange of experience.

87. Statements from a number of delegations indicated a growing interest in interregional technical cooperation. It was pointed out that to be a viable development modality, TCDC must be cost effective, and that was more easily achieved through exchanges with nearby countries rather than far-distant ones. Nevertheless, there were also important advantages in drawing upon the experiences of, and developing closer economic ties with, countries of other regions. One delegation also pointed out that interregional TCDC was essential for the universalization of the TCDC modality.

88. In accordance with that concept, an East European delegate reported plans to establish a "Latin American House" to further communication and exchange with that region. ECLAC also described activities initiated with African countries, as well as plans to strengthen relations with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

89. Several delegations welcomed the TCDC programming exercises organized by the Special Unit as a vehicle for helping to promote interregional technical cooperation. One delegation stressed that programming exercises should be held according to the schedule agreed upon with the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

C. Support to technical cooperation among developing countries by the United Nations development system

90. Many delegations expressed appreciation for the support provided to TCDC in the past biennium by organizations of the United Nations development system, as well as other external support agencies. The UNDP Special Unit for TCDC was mentioned as having provided particularly valuable assistance to many countries through the TCDC programming exercises and other promotional and operational activities. Many delegations referred to other United Nations agencies and bilateral donors that had been partners in various TCDC initiatives. Delegations cited with particular satisfaction the decision of the UNDP Governing Council to include TCDC among the organization's six priority focus areas for national capacity-building in the fifth cycle; and the decision of the Administrator to include the Director of the Special Unit in the Action Committee, thus bringing the Unit increasingly into the centre of the UNDP programming process.

91. In view of the key promotional role played by the Special Unit for TCDC, a number of delegations, while noting that the number of posts to be financed from the core budget had been increased to eight, expressed concern over the recent proposal to reduce the staff of the Unit from nine to eight Professionals when the two posts financed by Special Programme Resources had been considered. That appeared to be inconsistent with the Governing Council's decision to include TCDC among the six priority areas for the next programming cycle. One delegation questioned whether it was appropriate for the Committee to go into that matter, which fell properly within the jurisdiction of the UNDP Governing Council.

92. Concern was also expressed by many delegations regarding the recommendation of UNDP management consultants (Kienbaum and Partners) that the Special Unit be brought under the Bureau for Programme Policy and Evaluation and eventually abolished. They stressed that the current mandate and special nature, importance and complexity of TCDC required that the current status and the integrity of the Unit should be preserved.

93. One delegation expressed the view that the support role of the Special Unit would be greatly enhanced if a closer dialogue could be established between the Unit and developing countries, enabling countries to participate more actively in the planning and implementation of the Unit's work programme and field projects. That had proved to be extremely beneficial in the case of

SELA, which now functioned, in effect, as a supranational focal point for TCDC in the region.

94. One delegation expressed the view that the Special Unit should not become involved in operational activities because of the risk of possible duplication that that could involve. It should remain strictly a promotional and coordinating body.

95. Various delegations reported mixed results from the TCDC programming exercises organized with the assistance of the Special Unit. Available information indicated that large numbers of projects formulated at those sessions had not yet been implemented. In many cases, it was not known what the follow-up had been. One delegation strongly emphasized the need for careful and detailed planning of projects, based on the identified priorities of participating countries and assurance that the needed funds for implementation would be available. The in-depth evaluation of the exercises currently under way was welcomed.

96. With regard to the level of financial resources provided by the United Nations development system for TCDC, it was noted that approximately 72 per cent of the total amount came from UNDP resources and the balance from resources of organizations, trust funds and so on. Several delegations expressed the opinion that a better balance should be maintained.

97. One delegation suggested that the reported UNDP financial support might well be overstated. About 75 per cent of the UNDP resources that were spent on TCDC activities executed by Governments or UNDP itself were reported to have come from centrally controlled resources. In that delegation's view, only those activities executed by Governments truly qualified as TCDC activities. Without knowing the breakdown between UNDP (OPS) and government execution with regard to those activities, no correct assessment of UNDP support for TCDC could be gained.

98. One delegation recommended that UNDP permit greater flexibility in the use of the 10 per cent of country indicative planning figures that could be used for the support of TCDC benefiting other countries.

99. Numerous delegations stated that while the United Nations development system should provide greater resources for TCDC, the main goal should be to integrate it into the mainstream of the system's development activities as an integral and widely applied modality in all programmes and projects. There was still too much of a tendency to regard TCDC as a separate activity, increasing the risk over time that that important development modality would become progressively marginalized. In that connection, one delegation cited General Assembly resolution 42/180 of 11 December 1987 in which the Assembly required TCDC to be used as an alternative modality in the execution of technical cooperation projects.

100. It was suggested that in addition to being represented on the UNDP Action Committee, the Special Unit should be more closely involved in programme consultations with Governments, as well as in the review and preparation of particular projects and programmes to be funded during the next cycle. The country programme advisory notes should pay particular attention to the role that TCDC could play in the country programme; and the preparation of those

notes should be preceded by an analysis of TCDC components in the previous country programme.

101. One delegation pointed out that if the decision of the Governing Council designating TCDC a priority area for the next cycle was to produce the desired impact, it was essential that management personnel responsible for the programming of development activities be made fully aware of the decision and be adequately briefed on its implementation. That referred both to Government development agencies and all organizations of the United Nations development system.

D. Financing of technical cooperation among developing countries

102. There was general agreement that the principal responsibility for initiating, organizing, financing and implementing TCDC activities lay with the developing countries themselves. Financial assistance from international organizations, third countries or other sources must accordingly be regarded as a complementary form of support and not as a substitute for countries' own resources. It follows that external funds accordingly should be viewed as a catalyst and a means of minimizing constraints on TCDC activities rather than as a source of direct support.

103. Without denying the above principles, many delegations noted that the current global economic situation and the severe pressures it placed on developing countries, discussed in earlier sections of the present report, greatly inhibited the capacity of many countries to expand or even in some cases maintain adequate levels of funding from their own resources. In that situation, ways needed to be found to obtain higher levels of support from the international community. Suggestions included increased support from organizations of the United Nations development system. As mentioned above, the principal source of the funding they were currently providing was UNDP resources.

104. A number of delegations underlined the need for countries in a position to do so to make greater use of the 10 per cent of their indicative planning figures authorized to be allocated for the benefit of other countries. That could be a considerable help to particularly disadvantaged and least developed countries. An increase in the Special Programme Resources at the disposal of the Special Unit would also be very helpful.

E. Procurement from developing countries

105. Several delegations noted that the utilization of developing country experts in United Nations development system projects and programmes still remained quite low. That was difficult to understand given the abundance of skills and talent that many developing countries now possessed.

106. It was noted that improvement had taken place with respect to the placing of fellows and the implementation of training programmes in institutions of developing countries. That trend was welcomed and representatives urged that it be continued.

V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

A. Report of the Chairman of the Working Group to the High-level Committee

107. At its sixth meeting, on 31 May, the Committee considered the report of the Chairman of the Working Group to the High-level Committee. The report of the Working Group recommended the adoption of 12 draft decisions, including the draft provisional agenda for the eighth session. The 12 decisions were adopted at the seventh meeting, on 6 June. The texts of the decisions are reproduced in annex I (decisions 7/1 to 7/12).

B. Views expressed following the adoption of the decisions

108. The Director of the Special Unit for TCDC stated that it was the understanding of the Administrator that decision 7/12 entailed no financial implications for UNDP.

109. With reference to the invitation to the Administrator contained in decision 7/8, he further stated that it was the understanding of the UNDP secretariat that the Administrator would report on the extent to which recommendations pertaining to TCDC in the report of the South Commission could be implemented.

C. Schedule and organization of work of the eighth session of the High-level Committee

110. The Committee adopted the draft provisional agenda for its eighth session. The provisional agenda is contained in decision 7/12 (see annex I).

D. Draft report of the High-level Committee

111. The Committee authorized its Rapporteur to complete its report, taking into account any amendments or comments received from delegations.

VI. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

A. Closing statement by the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

112. In his closing statement, the Associate Administrator thanked the President, the Bureau and the High-level Committee for the inspiration and direction that they had provided during the meeting. He also expressed appreciation for members' commendations of the activities of UNDP, particularly those carried out through the Special Unit for TCDC. UNDP would continue to play an active role and would implement all the decisions and recommendations of the High-level Committee within the mandates given to UNDP with vigour and in a timely and efficient manner. Those which required consideration by the Governing Council would be brought to the attention of the Council.

113. The review of TCDC practices and the development of a TCDC strategy for the 1990s, proposed by the Administrator and endorsed by the Committee, would be undertaken in close consultation with Governments and agencies, and within the letter and spirit of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and subsequent decisions of the High-level Committee. The aim would be to develop a coherent approach based on past experiences, findings of evaluations and important recommendations of many studies carried out over the past years.

114. UNDP had taken special note of the Committee's concerns regarding the methodology for obtaining and reporting information on the progress of TCDC. The proposal endorsed by the Committee for the production of a consolidated analytical document and improvement of data-gathering methodology would be undertaken speedily. Pursuant to another decision of the Committee, the Governing Council would have before it at its current session the proposal to develop guidelines on TCDC policies and procedures for the United Nations system under the auspices of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

115. The Associate Administrator welcomed the offer of the Government of Morocco to host an international consultative meeting on TCDC in 1992. This was an important initiative for consultation and assessment of the state of TCDC and its future direction.

116. The Committee's debate had reaffirmed the strong support of Governments for TCDC and the need to make it a central modality in the implementation of development activities. The Committee called for renewed efforts by Governments and the United Nations system to pursue and realize this cardinal objective and the debate demonstrated a strong resolve to do so. UNDP and the United Nations system as a whole would, as stated by the Administrator in his opening statement, remain firmly committed to assisting the Committee to achieve that aim and thus build a stronger South.

B. Closing statement by the President

117. The President congratulated the delegations and the secretariat on the results that had been achieved at the seventh session of the High-level Committee and thanked all concerned for their participation. He expressed

particular appreciation for the work of the Chairman of the Working Group and the Rapporteur.

118. He noted that the principles of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action had been reaffirmed and that it was evident that Governments were providing strong support for TCDC. He expressed the view that the accomplishments of the present session, embodied in the decisions that had been taken, would provide the basis for further progress.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/35/39 and Corr.1).

3/ Ibid., Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/36/39).

4/ Ibid., Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/38/39).

5/ Ibid., Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/40/39).

6/ Ibid., Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/42/39).

7/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/44/39).

8/ The Challenge to the South: the Report of the South Commission, New York, Oxford University Press, 1990.

ANNEX I

Decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at its seventh session

7/1. Rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling its decisions 5/7 of 27 May 1987 and 6/3 of 29 September 1989, paragraphs 13 and 15, and decision 90/43 adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on 20 June 1990,

1. Takes note of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries, a/ and of the report by the Administrator b/ on the views of the organizations of the United Nations development system on that report;

2. Takes note also of the report of the Meeting of Governments of Developing Countries and Executing Agencies of the United Nations Development System on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries; c/

3. Recommends to the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme the convening in early 1992 of a special meeting of technical cooperation among developing countries focal points of the organizations of the United Nations development system to be devoted to the task of preparing guidelines for the review of policies and procedures in those organizations concerning technical cooperation among developing countries;

4. Also recommends that these guidelines be reviewed by the Administrative Committee on Coordination and transmitted to the High-level Committee for its consideration and adoption and for subsequent implementation by the organizations;

5. Further recommends that the Administrative Committee on Coordination, through the meetings of technical cooperation among developing countries focal points of the organizations, monitor the implementation of the guidelines on a regular basis;

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a/ DP/1990/77.

b/ TCDC/7/10.

c/ TCDC/WP/1991/L.2.

6. Requests the Administrator to report to the High-level Committee at its eighth session on the progress of the implementation of the present decision.

7/2. Intergovernmental programming exercises for technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 42/179 of 11 December 1987 and decision 44/450 of 22 December 1989 on further strengthening and improving intergovernmental programming exercises for technical cooperation among developing countries,

Recalling also its decision 6/5 of 29 September 1989 on the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries programming exercises, including meetings for negotiations with respect to technical cooperation among developing countries,

1. Takes note of the progress report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme d/ on strengthening and improving intergovernmental programming for technical cooperation among developing countries, which reviews the exercises and meetings convened during 1989 and 1990;

2. Notes the fact that the technical cooperation among developing countries programming exercises are being evaluated by independent consultants under the auspices of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries with the view to increasing and improving the effectiveness of exercises in further strengthening technical cooperation among developing countries;

3. Encourages Governments of developing countries that have formalized bilateral technical cooperation among developing countries projects and activities through past technical cooperation among developing countries programming exercises, to continue to provide the necessary financial and other resources to facilitate their implementation, including, where necessary, support from their country indicative planning figures;

4. Calls upon the international community to continue to provide support to supplement the resources of the developing countries in the implementation of projects agreed on in technical cooperation among developing countries programming exercises;

5. Calls upon the Administrator to ensure the implementation as per the agreed schedule of programming exercises for which memoranda of understanding have been signed with Governments;

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d/ TCDC/7/4.

6. Requests the Administrator to undertake follow-up and evaluation of the programming exercises and, at the request of the participating developing countries, mobilize financial support for the projects and proposals agreed upon by the concerned countries;

7. Invites the Governments of developing countries to carry out follow-up and evaluation of technical cooperation among developing countries projects and to communicate their results to the Special Unit for technical cooperation among developing countries so as to facilitate the adoption of remedial measures;

8. Also invites the Governments of developing countries to identify ways and means for ensuring that technical cooperation among developing countries projects are consistent with national development plans and objectives;

9. Stresses the need for the United Nations development system to emphasize the importance of the sectoral approach and technical cooperation among developing countries regional, interregional and global programming exercises;

10. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report to the Committee at its eighth session on the implementation of the present decision with particular emphasis on the outcome of the evaluation of the exercises.

7/3. Strengthening the capacity of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling its decisions 3/8 of 6 June 1983, 4/3 of 5 June 1985, 5/2 of 27 May 1987 and 6/8 of 29 September 1989 concerning the strengthening of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in order to enable it to discharge all its mandated responsibilities effectively,

Recalling also decision 90/34 adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on 23 June 1990 designating technical cooperation among developing countries as one of the six priority areas of activity of the Programme during the fifth programming cycle,

Noting the rationale that has necessitated the staffing restrictions across the board in the United Nations Development Programme,

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme e/ and of the arrangements proposed therein for staffing the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries during the biennium 1992-1993;

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e/ TCDC/7/8.

2. Recommends that the status of those staff members who are funded from the Special Programme Resources should be regularized;

3. Also recommends that the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries be maintained with a view, inter alia, to strengthening its capacities to enable it to continue to execute its functions effectively;

4. Invites the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to review at its fortieth session the staffing level of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in relation to its mandated functions and growing responsibilities when considering the budgetary proposals for UNDP headquarters for the biennium 1994-1995;

5. Welcomes the inclusion of the Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in the Action Committee of the United Nations Development Programme and calls upon the Administrator also to include the Special Unit in other internal decision-making bodies of the organization, and to enable it to participate more closely in all policy and operational issues, in project approval, in country and intercountry programming processes, and in regional meetings of regional bureaux, in order to ensure that the technical cooperation among developing countries option receives the attention that it deserves.

7/4. Information from Governments and intergovernmental organizations on their activities in technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme entitled "Information from some Governments and intergovernmental organizations on their activities in technical cooperation among developing countries"; f/

2. Encourages the developing countries to continue to strengthen their national focal points for technical cooperation among developing countries with a view to enabling them to promote and coordinate technical cooperation among developing countries activities at the country level;

3. Encourages Governments of developed countries to continue to give their full support, in the endeavours of developing countries, in the identification, formulation and implementation of technical cooperation among developing countries activities in the framework of recommendations 35 and 36 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries; g/

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f/ TCDC/7/3.

g/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

4. Requests the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries:

(a) To improve and submit in a timely manner formats and questionnaires to Governments when requesting information from them on their support to technical cooperation among developing countries activities;

(b) To provide, together with these requests, clear definitions of technical cooperation among developing countries and of different categories of technical cooperation among developing countries activities and to illustrate their explanations with relevant examples;

(c) To include in the questionnaires a breakdown of personnel employed in technical cooperation among developing countries activities between experts from developing and from developed countries;

(d) To cooperate with the working group on statistics of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the further improvement of information to be obtained from Governments on their technical cooperation among developing countries activities with a view to eventually integrating support to technical cooperation among developing countries in standard reporting format of the Committee;

5. Invites Governments and intergovernmental organizations of developing and developed countries to provide to the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries information pertaining to their activities in technical cooperation among developing countries in the ensuing two-year period, not later than 30 December 1992, to facilitate the preparation of the Administrator's report, in a timely manner, to the High-level Committee at its eighth session.

7/5. Progress made by the United Nations development system in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee,

Reaffirming the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, g/

Emphasizing the important role that technical cooperation among developing countries can play in promoting socio-economic development in these countries,

Recalling decision 90/34 adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on designating technical cooperation among developing countries as one of the six priority areas of activity of the Programme during the fifth programming cycle,

Expressing concern that the resources made available from the United Nations development system for activities, programmes and projects for technical cooperation among developing countries have remained at an

inadequate level despite the high priority that the international community attaches to technical cooperation among developing countries,

Expressing concern also over the continuing inability of many of the organizations of the United Nations development system to measure their support for technical cooperation among developing countries in quantitative and financial terms that would reliably demonstrate the extent of progress achieved over preceding periods,

Expressing further concern over the uncertainty still prevailing among several organizations in distinguishing technical cooperation among developing countries activities from non-technical cooperation among developing countries activities, especially those under regional, interregional and global programmes being supported by the organizations,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Third Meeting of the Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries Focal Points of the Organizations of the United Nations Development System, h/

Recalling its decisions 5/5 of 27 May 1987 and 6/3 of 29 September 1989 concerning its review of the activities of the United Nations development system within the framework of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, 6/6 of 29 September 1989 concerning the role of women in technical cooperation among developing countries, and 6/7 of 29 September 1989 concerning the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit, and all other relevant decisions,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;

2. Welcomes the efforts to provide greater support to technical cooperation among developing countries activities made by the ten organizations of the United Nations development system that have provided information on their technical cooperation among developing countries activities to the High-level Committee;

3. Strongly urges the organizations of the United Nations development system to develop, without further delay, the capability to measure in quantitative and financial terms their support for technical cooperation among developing countries activities;

4. Considers that the figures contained in the Administrator's report give a highly inaccurate representation of the actual amount of support extended by the United Nations development system for technical cooperation among developing countries activities, which is probably based on an inaccurate understanding of what constitutes technical cooperation among developing countries or technical cooperation among developing countries support activities;

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h/ TCDC/7/6.

5. Emphasizes that the definition of technical cooperation among developing countries formulated by the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations concerning technical cooperation among developing countries in its report a/ should become the touchstone for determining whether or not a particular project is indeed a technical cooperation among developing countries project;

6. Recommends that the next meeting of the technical cooperation among developing countries focal points of the organizations of the United Nations development system address itself to this question and develop a common methodology for identifying, evaluating, reporting and following up on their technical cooperation among developing countries activities in accordance with the general principles established in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and in subsequent decisions of the High-level Committee, and as elaborated in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts, based on the interpretation of technical cooperation among developing countries formulated therein;

7. Further recommends that the common methodology for identifying, evaluating, reporting and following up on technical cooperation among developing countries activities thus developed should be used by all organizations in the preparation of the progress report for the eighth session of the High-level Committee;

8. Reaffirms that the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit contained in its report i/ concerning United Nations development system support to the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action remain valid, and calls upon the United Nations development system fully to implement those recommendations;

9. Reaffirms also the request contained in General Assembly resolution 42/180 of 11 December 1980, paragraph 10, relating to measures for enabling each developing country to have the choice of executing each technical cooperation project in total or in part under the technical cooperation among developing countries modality;

10. Decides that the reporting at future sessions of the High-level Committee on this and related subjects shall be based on a single document containing an analysis of the information to be provided by the organizations with conclusions and recommendations as appropriate, along with addenda giving in greater detail the information provided by the organizations;

11. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to consider effective measures to accelerate the pace of the use of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in the execution of sectoral projects financed from regional, interregional and global programmes and Special Programme Resources as appropriate, in consultation with the Governments concerned, in technical cooperation projects;

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i/ A/40/656, annex.

12. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to instruct the resident representatives to include the technical cooperation among developing countries modality, wherever appropriate, in technical cooperation projects;

13. Calls upon the organizations of the United Nations development system to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Third Meeting of the Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries Focal Points h/ and invites the meeting of the technical cooperation among developing countries focal points to be held preceding the next session of the High-level Committee to report on the implementation of these recommendations by the organizations of the United Nations development system;

14. Reaffirms its decisions 5/5, entitled "Progress made in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries", and 6/3, entitled "Review of the activities of the United Nations system within the framework of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries", and calls for their full implementation;

15. Encourages the governing bodies of all organizations of the United Nations development system fully to integrate the technical cooperation among developing countries modality or its components in the formulation and execution of projects in their regular programmes and trust funds and enhance the financing of projects;

16. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report to the High-level Committee at its eighth session on the implementation of the present decision and on the status of implementation by the United Nations development system of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit;

17. Further requests the Administrator, in conformity with standard practices, to make reports available at least six weeks before the session of the High-level Committee.

7/6. Development of a strategy of technical cooperation among developing countries in the United Nations development system

The High-level Committee,

Appreciating that several useful exercises have been undertaken, and some are under way, to examine and evaluate specific aspects of technical cooperation among developing countries including the Joint Inspection Unit report on the United Nations development system support to the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, i/ the report of the meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries and the evaluation of technical

cooperation among developing countries programming exercises by independent consultants currently under way,

Convinced that many lessons have been, and are being, learned from technical cooperation among developing countries projects and activities carried out by developing countries themselves through bilateral and multilateral arrangements with the assistance of the United Nations development system,

Recalling the particular catalytic and promotional role of the United Nations Development Programme and, in this context, the allocation of funds from the Special Programme Resources of the Programme for the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries,

Noting that the fifth programming cycle for the utilization of the resources of the United Nations Development Programme begins in 1992 and that the Governing Council will review technical cooperation among developing countries in depth at its thirty-ninth session,

Recognizing the importance of developing, in accordance with the principles established in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, a strategy for the United Nations development system that will more efficiently respond to the needs of developing countries in the application of technical cooperation among developing countries for the 1990s,

1. Endorses the proposal of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme that an overall framework for the promotion and application of technical cooperation among developing countries in technical cooperation programmes and activities of the United Nations development system in the 1990s be formulated in accordance with the guidelines of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, taking fully into account the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts, the Joint Inspection Unit report and ongoing evaluations, and in mutual consultation among all partners involved;

2. Requests the Administrator to report to the High-level Committee at its eighth session on the strategy developed for its review and comments.

7/7. Role of women in technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Underlining the principle of equal rights between men and women as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the mandate of the United Nations system, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 44/211 of 22 December 1989, to promote the full integration of women in development,

Reaffirming the validity of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, g/

Affirming its decision 6/6 of 29 September 1989 on the role of women in technical cooperation among developing countries,

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the role of women in technical cooperation among developing countries; j/

2. Expresses its concern at the little progress and the lack of practical relevance achieved by the United Nations development system in its endeavours to integrate women in technical cooperation among developing countries;

3. Decides that the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the United Nations Development Programme should:

(a) Allocate sufficient human and financial resources to the participation of women in technical cooperation among developing countries;

(b) Assist in ensuring that full account is taken of women's needs when considering the approval of projects for technical cooperation among developing countries;

(c) Continue to monitor progress made in the integration of women in technical cooperation among developing countries with special emphasis on the monitoring of action-oriented efforts;

(d) Cooperate with the relevant units of the United Nations Development Programme in the development and improvement of guidelines to ensure full access and participation of women in activities of technical cooperation among developing countries;

4. Urges the heads of all organs of the United Nations development system to fully support and cooperate with the United Nations Development Programme in all aspects of the integration of women in technical cooperation among developing countries and to design, in addition to undertaking the integration of women in technical cooperation among developing countries as a mainstream activity, specific projects in order to support income-generating efforts for women and to facilitate women's tasks, while taking account of the opportunity to spread appropriate technologies within technical cooperation among developing countries for the betterment of the situation of women;

5. Urges developed countries to continue to support actively the integration of women in technical cooperation among developing countries;

6. Invites developing countries to continue to intensify efforts to integrate women fully in their activities of technical cooperation among developing countries, taking fully into account the vast potential of appropriate technologies for the improvement of the situation of women;

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j/ TCDC/7/5.

7. Requests the Administrator to report on the implementation of the present decision to the High-level Committee at its eighth session.

7/8. The Challenge to the South: The Report of the South Commission

The High-level Committee,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 45/195 of 21 December 1990,

Taking note also of The Challenge to the South: The Report of the South Commission, k/ especially its contents regarding the role of South-South cooperation, particularly the priority areas contained therein,

Noting that the report gives a new impulse to economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

1. Welcomes the inclusion of an item entitled "Consideration of the report by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the extent to which the recommendations of the report of the South Commission pertaining to technical cooperation among developing countries could be implemented" in the programme of work of the High-level Committee, given its relevance to the issues relating to cooperation among developing countries;

2. Invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in close cooperation with the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, to prepare a report on the extent to which the recommendations of the report of the South Commission pertaining to technical cooperation among developing countries could be implemented;

3. Requests the Administrator to report to the High-level Committee at its eighth session on the implementation of the present decision.

7/9. International Consultative Meeting on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee

1. Welcomes the decision of the Government of Morocco to host an international consultative meeting on technical cooperation among developing countries in 1992 to examine ways and means to enhance this form of cooperation, taking into account the current state of progress in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries; g/

2. Calls upon States Members to be represented at the meeting at the highest level possible;

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k/ New York, Oxford University Press, 1990.

3. Calls upon the United Nations system, especially the United Nations Development Programme, to support the Government of Morocco in organizing the meeting and requests the Administrator of the Programme to report to the eighth session of the High-level Committee on the outcome of the meeting.

7/10. North-South round table on technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee

1. Invites donor countries to give growing attention to technical cooperation among developing countries in their foreign aid allocations;

2. Urges in particular interested Governments to organize a North-South round table comprising a selected number of countries and personalities to reflect on and assess general issues of technical cooperation among developing countries.

7/11. Technical cooperation among developing countries/economic cooperation among developing countries in the field of interregional trade

The High-level Committee

1. Underlines the need to undertake follow-up action to the Economic Commission for Africa/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Joint Meeting of Governmental Experts from Africa and Latin America on Economic and Technical Cooperation, held from 1 to 4 June 1982 at Addis Ababa, and to its action-oriented proposals in the areas of interregional technical cooperation among developing countries/economic cooperation among developing countries, namely, trade and finance, science and technology, and human resources, and to that end:

(a) Urges the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to start immediate consultations with a view to the rapid implementation of the first item in the above-mentioned proposals, that is, establishing a trade network between the two regions;

(b) Invites both regional commissions to give consideration to a phase I project aimed at establishing trade networks in their respective regions that would be linked up interregionally upon completion of the regional stage;

(c) Requests the two regional commissions to reinforce existing contacts with regional and subregional organizations like the Economic Community of West African States and the Latin American Economic System, as well as development finance institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the African Development Bank;

2. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to engage prompt action with the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for ensuring their early involvement in the implementation of the above-mentioned

trade network project, and to report at the organizational and special sessions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1992.

7/12. 1993 session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee,

Taking into account the views expressed at its seventh session,

Approves the following provisional agenda for its eighth session, to be held in 1993:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Election of the President of the session.

3. Election of the officers other than the President.

4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

5. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and decisions of the High-level Committee.

6. Consideration of reports by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on:

   (a) The international consultative meeting on technical cooperation among developing countries to be held in Morocco in 1992;

   (b) The extent to which the recommendations of the report of the South Commission pertaining to technical cooperation among developing countries could be implemented.

7. Review of the strategy for the promotion and support of technical cooperation among developing countries in the United Nations development system in the 1990s.

8. Organizational and supportive arrangements for technical cooperation among developing countries (such as administrative, legal, information and financial).

9. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

10. Provisional agenda for the 1995 session of the High-level Committee.

11. Other matters.

12. Adoption of the report of the High-level Committee on its eighth session.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the High-level Committee at its seventh session

TCDC/7/L.1	Provisional and annotated agenda, including list of documents
TCDC/7/L.2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
TCDC/7/1	Status of pre-session documents
TCDC/7/2 and Add.1-3	Progress made in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
TCDC/7/3	Information from some Governments on their activities in technical cooperation among developing countries
TCDC/7/4	Progress report on strengthening and improving intergovernmental programming for technical cooperation among developing countries
TCDC/7/5	Report on the activities of the United Nations development system in enhancing the participation of women in programmes for technical cooperation among developing countries
TCDC/7/6	Report of the meeting of the focal points of technical cooperation among developing countries of the organizations of the United Nations development system
TCDC/7/7	Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit for United Nations development system support to the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
TCDC/7/8	Measures to facilitate technical cooperation among developing countries - staffing of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
TCDC/7/9	Report of the meeting of organizations of the United Nations development system with developing countries for strengthening and improving activities for technical cooperation among developing countries
TCDC/7/10 and Add.1	Views of the organizations of the United Nations development system on the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries

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